

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vatskalis to the Chief Minister:

Northern Territory Government's Representative in Indonesia

1. When was Mr Terry Mills appointed as the Northern Territory Government's (NTG) representative in Indonesia?
2. What is the duration of the appointment?
3. Who approved the appointment?
4. When was the Indonesian Government informed about Mr Mills' appointment?
5. Since the last Territory election have any appointments been made to NTG positions for which both the appointee and the appointee's spouse are remunerated as a company?
6. If so, would you provide the name of each relevant appointee?
7. Prior to the appointment of Mr Mills as the NTG's representative in Indonesia:
 - a) Were expressions of interest called?
 - b) Were any other prospective appointees considered?
 - c) If so, who else was considered for appointment?
 - d) If not, why not?
8. When did discussions and negotiations commence with Mr Mills about his appointment as NTG representative in Indonesia?
9. Who approved the commencement of the discussions and negotiations?
10. Would you provide a list of all Ministers, Ministerial Advisers, public sector employees or other persons involved in the discussions and negotiations with Mr Mills?
11. Who approved the negotiating parameters in the lead up to Mr Mills' appointment?
12. When was the contract with Mr Mills signed?
13. Who are the parties to the contact?
14. What is the total value of the agreement between Mr Mills and the NTG concerning his appointment as the NTG representative in Indonesia?
15. Are there any costs associated with Mr Mills' appointment not covered by the contractual arrangements between the NTG and Mr Mills?

16. If so, would you provide all relevant details?
17. What was the total itemised expenditure in relation to the activities of the NTG's representative in Indonesia in 2013/14?
18. What is the itemised budget provision for these activities in 2014/15?
19. What is the budget provision for these activities in the forward estimates?

ANSWER

1. The appointment was formally executed on 11 April 2014 and took effect from 3 March 2014.
2. To 31 December 2016, subject to the Territory's right to terminate the appointment at any time by the giving of not less than one month's notice in writing.
3. The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.
4. The Office of Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment commenced the formal accreditation process for the new appointment with the Indonesian Consul-General, Pak Ade at the time of the appointment.
5. Under the arrangement, Terence Kennedy Mills is appointed as the Northern Territory Government Commissioner in Indonesia and the ASEAN Region, with payment for the performance of those duties made to a company incorporated by Mr Mills. The Territory is not aware whether Mr Mills's spouse has any involvement with the company.
6. As per the answer to question 5.
7.
 - a. No.
 - b. No.
 - c. Not applicable.
 - d. Due to the nature of the duties, and the need to articulate government's policy and priorities in dealing with foreign countries and companies, it is common practice to make direct appointments to trade emissary and ambassadorial roles, and former politicians are frequently appointed for that purpose. Recent examples from other jurisdictions include Bob Gibbs (trade commissioner to Los Angeles), Peter Beattie (trade commissioner to North and South America), Steve Bredhauer (trade representative to the Peoples Republic of China and Vietnam), Bob Quinn (trade representative to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand), Kim Beazley (Ambassador to the United States), Amanda Vanstone (Ambassador to Italy), Brendan Nelson (Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg), Tim Fischer (Ambassador to the Holy See), Nick Minchin (Consul-General to New York), Alexander Downer (High Commissioner to the United Kingdom), Mike Rann (High Commissioner to the United Kingdom) and Steve Bracks (Consul-General to New York).

Mr Mills was particularly suited for the role. He has recent high-level experience in the formulation of Territory trade and investment policy, he has the ability to articulate government's priorities in that respect, and he is an experienced negotiator. He also has a long-standing engagement with Indonesia and the ASEAN region, and is fluent in Bahasa to high conceptual level.

8. On or about February 2014, following Mr Mills' decision to resign from Parliament.
9. The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.
10. The details of the arrangement were settled as between Mr Mills and the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister.

Dealings with Mr Mills's legal representative concerning the terms of the appointment were conducted by the Solicitor-General.

11. The Chief Executive Officer of the NT Department of the Chief Minister. Cabinet had previously approved, in principle, the appointment of a Trade Commissioner with indicative costings based on relativities with other jurisdictions but without any consideration of a particular appointee. The Chief Executive Officer negotiations with Mr Mills were guided by those parameters.
12. 11 April 2014.
13. The Northern Territory of Australia and Midian Pty Ltd.
14. This question will be addressed following the completion of FOI applications regarding the appointment of Mr Mills. As a third party to the FOI request Mr Mills has 30 days to advise of any objections to the release of information.
15. No.
16. Not applicable.
17. Nil expenditure to 31 March 2014.

Government agencies are currently preparing data for verification and inclusion in end of year financial statements. Once approved by Accountable Officers and audits have been completed, end of year financial data will be available in agency Annual Reports in accordance with the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* and the *Financial Management Act*.

Financial information included in this WQON is to 31 March 2014 and is comparable with any financial information that was tabled during the Estimates Committee Hearings.

18. Budget for total expenses up to \$750,000 has been provided.
19. \$750 000 per annum.