

OFFICE OF RAIL SAFETY

**951. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Office of Rail Safety.

- (1) How many full-time equivalents are currently employed in the office?
- (2) What is the current full-time equivalent cap on staff numbers for the office?
- (3) What initiatives has the government undertaken to recruit qualified staff to the office?
- (4) What are the “administrative processes and attitudes” in the department that have inhibited the ability of staff to maintain the level of technical expertise required to ensure the office remains a credible regulator?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Transport advises —

- (1) Nine FTEs are employed in the office.
- (2) The office is currently funded for 14 FTEs in the 2012–13 financial year.
- (3) Regular recruitment rounds have been undertaken and the most recent is currently being finalised. An attraction and retention incentive scheme is being investigated.
- (4) The member is advised to place this question on notice and clarify what is referred to by the “administrative processes and attitudes”.