

From: [Sharee Minnikin-Smith](#)
To: [HA - Select - Caretaker Conventions](#)
Subject: Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions
Date: Thursday, 16 July 2026 7:01:19 PM

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Ms Mary de Groot

Secretary

Caretaker Conventions Committee

Dear Chair

Re: Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

I am writing to express my willingness to provide evidence to the Committee regarding my experience working within Ministerial Offices during the 2024 State Election and caretaker period.

I commenced employment within Parliamentary Services in November 2023 as an Adviser in the office of Leonie Hiscutt MLC. On 11 April 2024, I was appointed as an Adviser in the office of the Hon. Jane Howlett MP.

During my employment, I was directed to undertake duties that, in my view, were inconsistent with the role for which I had been employed. Rather than performing the responsibilities of a Parliamentary Adviser, I was required to undertake significant political campaign activities during the election period.

I can provide evidence regarding the 2024 State Election campaign, including an incident on 22 March 2024 where I was directed to use my official government email account to distribute political campaign material to public servants and members of the community. I understand this matter has previously been referred to during a Legislative Council Estimates hearing, however I believe important aspects have not been fully explained.

I can also provide evidence regarding my appointment to Leonie Hiscutt's office while being directed to work almost exclusively on Jane Howlett's election campaigns in both Prosser and later Lyons, including work undertaken during the caretaker period after Ms Howlett had resigned from Parliament.

In addition, I have concerns regarding the management of my employment, the treatment I experienced while working within Ministerial Offices, and broader workplace practices that I believe are relevant to the Committee's consideration.

I have chosen to come forward because I believe public sector workplaces should reflect fairness, integrity, accountability and respect. Members of Parliament hold positions of public trust, and I believe both staff and the community should have confidence that those entrusted with public office conduct themselves ethically and treat others with dignity and professionalism.

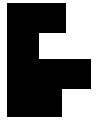
My intention is not simply to reflect on my own experience, but to contribute to improving workplace culture and accountability so that others are not placed in similar circumstances in the future.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss the Committee's process further. I can be contacted on [REDACTED] or by email should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

Sharee Minnikin-Smith

[REDACTED]



From: Sharee Minnikin-Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2026 4:30 PM
To: HA - Select - Caretaker Conventions <caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

Dear Mary

Thank you again for taking the time to speak with me.

Following our conversation, I remembered something that may assist the Committee when considering my evidence.

When you asked whether there was anything occurring around the 2025 election period, I realised that this coincided with my TASCAT proceedings involving Jane Howlett. At the same time, Ms Howlett was campaigning during the 2025 election.

I am not sure whether this falls within the Committee's scope, however I thought it was important to bring it to your attention in case it assists with understanding the chronology of events and the broader context of my experience.

If the Committee considers this relevant, I am happy to provide further information or documentation.

Kind regards,

Sharee