

PART 4 – THE MINISTERIAL HANDBOOK

4.1 Post ministerial employment

The Ministerial code of conduct is set out as Appendix 1 to the Ministerial Handbook published by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.¹

The code requires that Ministers undertake not to take personal advantage, in any future employment, of information obtained as a Minister which is not publicly available, including confidential information or pending contracts or dealings.

The code states that Ministers also undertake that for a period of two years after leaving office (or 18 months for Assistant Ministers), they will exercise care in considering offers of employment or providing services, and will not have dealings with Government representatives, in relation to their official dealings as a Minister during their last two years in office.

The code also states that Ministers undertake that, for a period of two years after leaving office, they will not undertake lobbying activities (as set out in the *Integrity Act 2009*) in relation to their official dealings as a Minister in their last two years in office.

The code notes that where there is any doubt regarding compliance with these requirements, the Premier may seek the advice of the integrity commissioner.

4.2 ‘Random check’ meetings with Ministers and Assistant Ministers

The code states that the integrity commissioner ‘will undertake random checks of Minister/Assistant Minister compliance’ with the code, in accordance with section 16 of the *Integrity Act 2009* (which contemplates that the Premier can ask for the Integrity Commissioner’s advice about ethics and integrity issues); and is to meet with each Minister and Assistant Minister at least once in each year for this purpose.

The code imposes an obligation on Ministers and Assistant Ministers to provide such relevant materials as are requested, and to answer any relevant questions in order for the integrity commissioner to carry out the random checks.

The code also requires the integrity commissioner to advise the Premier of any unresolved issues concerning Ministers’ or Assistant Ministers’ interests.

¹ See The Queensland Ministerial Handbook – Governing Queensland, Sixth edition March 2014, available at <http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/publications/categories/policies-and-codes/handbooks/ministerial-handbook.pdf>, retrieved on 30 March 2016.