

HONORABLE
SETH M. GROVE
196TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE
7 EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202196
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2196
PHONE: (717) 783-2655

DISTRICT OFFICE
2501 CATHERINE STREET
SUITE 10
YORK, PA 17408
PHONE: (717) 767-3947

Website: RepGrove.com
Twitter: @RepGrove
Facebook.com/RepSethGrove



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

September 18, 2020

CHAIR
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
Subcommittee on Government
and Financial Oversight, Chair
STATE GOVERNMENT
FINANCE
INSURANCE
REPUBLICAN POLICY

LEGISLATIVE
APPOINTMENTS
STATE PLANNING BOARD
YAMPO

Michael Newsome
Secretary of the Office of Administration
207 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Newsome,

We sent you a letter, on August 7, which was followed up by a second letter on September 3. On September 11, more than a month after our original letter, we received your response with great disappointment.

In your letter, sent last Friday, you failed to answer the majority of our questions while providing only vague answers on the administration's transition to remote work caused by the pandemic. While we appreciate you informing us of the difficult task OA was faced with in transition state government to working remotely the letter which you sent to us does not answer our questions.

Additionally, as you mentioned in your response to us, 65% of the state's current workforce is now working remotely. However, the majority of our constituents are incapable of contacting state agencies upon which they rely on for essential government services. This is not counting the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians trying to reach the Department of Labor and Industry regarding unemployment compensation. Our legislative offices are inundated with calls from residents who cannot reach the Department of State concerning occupational licenses, and PennDOT about driver/commercial driver licenses. This is not limited to licensing by the commonwealth as too often our constituents cannot get ahold of the staff at the Department of Revenue in relation to their personal income tax returns and property tax/rent rebates. Simply,

the people of Pennsylvania are growing more and more frustrated with how difficult it is for them to contact their government.

The frustration of these constituents is in direct contradiction to Governor Wolf's statements on August 31 alleging employee productivity has increased while working remotely. However, as your response failed to provide any information corroborating the governor's assessment, we are left forced to judge the governor's words against the growing frustrations of our constituents.

In the interest of openness and transparency we are asking you to answer the questions from our original letters which have been copied below.

- How did the administration determine which employees would be required or allowed to work from home?
- How many employees still went to their physical locations?
 - Please include the agencies they work for and their job titles
- What percentage of employees working remotely since March 6th have been logged on and working for at least 30 hours?
 - Please provide this information broken down by agency and by week.
- What percentage of employees working remotely since March 6th have failed to log on during the work week?
 - Please provide a breakdown of employees who failed to log in by agency and week.
- What internal controls does the administration have in place to ensure state employees who are working remotely perform the tasks assigned to them?
- How did the administration determine overtime payments between March 6th and August 6th for employees working remotely?
 - Please a specific list of individuals who received overtime payments and any overtime policies adopted or used for remote work between March 6th and August 6th.
- How many laptops did your office provide to state employees for remote work? What was the process for determining which employees would receive state laptops?
- What was the total cost, salaries and benefits, for state employees from March 6th through August 6th?
 - Please break down by week and the following categories:
 - Employees who worked 40 hours a week
 - Employees who worked 35 - 39 hours a week
 - Employees who worked 30 - 34 hours a week
 - Employees who worked 25 - 29 hours a week
 - Employees who worked less than 24 hour a week
 - Employees who failed to log on

- What is being used to determine productivity while employees are working remotely during the pandemic?
- How does productivity compare to the productivity of state workers prior to COVID-19?
- Monthly productivity data for each Commonwealth Agency from April 1st- July 1st.

We expect your office to provide an expedited response as it has been nearly six weeks since our original letter was sent requesting this information. Should you have any questions about the information we are requesting, again, we are more than willing to answer them.

Sincerely,



Seth Grove
State Representative
196th Legislative District



Frank Ryan
State Representative
101st Legislative District