

TIRZAH BELL — GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

13. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to former Liberal Party staffer Ms Tirzah Bell.

- (1) In which ministerial office did Ms Bell work between 30 September 2008 and 13 October 2008?
- (2) Why was Ms Bell's continuing engagement not approved?
- (3) Who made the decision not to continue her appointment?
- (4) At what level was Ms Bell employed when she worked for the then opposition?
- (5) What would the salary have been for two weeks' paid work when Ms Bell was fulfilling that position?
- (6) Why was Ms Bell paid \$15 000 for two weeks' work, and on whose advice was that amount paid?

Hon NORMAN MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(6) Tirzah Bell performed some services in the office of the Minister for Water. It was subsequently determined that her services were no longer required. Ms Bell was a research officer level 5.1 in the then Leader of the Opposition's office—not the Liberal Party of Western Australia as the honourable member suggests—until March 2006. The decision to provide a payment of \$15 000 was made by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet following discussions with Ms Bell's agent in negotiation of services undertaken and the expectation of ongoing appointment.