

SCHOOLTEACHERS, ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

719. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:

Further to question on notice 2589 answered yesterday, 11 October 2005, relating to 99 teachers facing allegations of misconduct -

- (1) What is the process adopted to resolve these cases?
- (2) When, and under what circumstances, are these alleged offenders returned to schools?
- (3) Are principals and parents made aware of the allegations when the teachers concerned are placed in their schools?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The process is in accordance with the Public Sector Management Act 1994. When the employee is not subject to the act - for example, cleaners, gardeners, and education assistants - a similar process is used, when possible, to afford the respondent procedural fairness.
- (2) Respondents are returned to schools when the process is resolved if the allegation is not substantiated or if the sanction imposed in accordance with the act does not prevent them from returning to a school.
- (3) Information produced during the disciplinary process is kept in trust and divulged only to those with a need to know, with due regard to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 as stated in the explanatory notes of the public sector discipline standard. Compliance with the standard is legally binding on all government agencies.