

ELECTORAL REFORM — ADVISORY COMMITTEE

24. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the minister's media statement of 30 April 2021 titled "Ministerial Expert Committee to advise government on electoral reform.

- (1) On what date did cabinet agree to establish such a review committee and appoint such members to the committee if those dates vary?
- (2) What is the total cost of performing the review, and will the minister please detail the individual payments for the services of the committee members?
- (3) How was the membership of the committee determined; was membership advertised publicly; and does the minister have concern that three of the four committee members have previously advocated strongly in favour of reforms contributing to the potential for bias in any report produced?
- (4) Given that this issue was not on the government's agenda immediately prior to the election, why has the review committee been given just eight weeks to consult and report on this important matter?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Decisions of the cabinet are cabinet-in-confidence.
- (2) Total costs are yet to be finalised.
- (3) Three of the members were determined based on their constitutional and electoral law expertise. The chair was appointed based on his significant legal expertise and his understanding of the Western Australian constitutional system as the former Governor of the state. Given their unimpeached standing and collective academic record, the government has no concerns regarding any of the committee members.
- (4) The reporting time frame was arrived at in consultation with the ministerial expert committee.