

PUBLIC SECTOR — CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

**822. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management:**

I refer to the need to avoid the real and apparent existence of conflicts of interest in the Western Australian public sector, particularly at the most senior levels of the service.

- (1) Is there a positive obligation under the Public Sector Management Act 1994 and/or the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003, or another relevant act, for an officer to make a formal personal disclosure of the existence of a conflict?
- (2) If yes, to which classes of officer does this obligation apply?
- (3) To whom or to which authority are these disclosures made, and where and how are these records retained?

**Hon SAMANTHA ROWE replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide the following answer on behalf of the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All public sector bodies are required to develop a code of conduct, with conflicts of interest procedures a mandatory requirement. In addition, public sector chief executive officers are required to disclose relevant interests they and their families have, as well as a plan to manage identified interests, to the Public Sector Commissioner.

*Treasurer's Instruction 924 — Related party disclosures* requires agency key management personnel to disclose if a member of their family or a close relation was contracted by their agency for an amount more than \$50 000, and how they ensured they did not influence the contracting of the services. Any such transactions are disclosed in the financial statements in the agency's annual report.