

JURY TRIAL COURTROOMS — FEASIBILITY STUDY

858. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I thank the Attorney General for his answer to my question yesterday concerning the progress, such as it is, of the feasibility study conducted by the Department of Justice concerning measures to overcome the growing and unmet demand for criminal trial courtrooms.

- (1) With respect, how is this work so complex as to take two years and counting without any tangible resolution in sight to address what is agreed to be an acute problem—indeed, a problem that was initially categorised by the Law Society of Western Australia in the 2021 calendar year as “a crisis”?
- (2) Has the Attorney set any expectations as to the date by which the finalisation of this feasibility study should be accomplished; and, if so, what is the date?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Attorney General.

- (1)–(2) Further to advice to the member during the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations hearing on 26 June 2023, the complexity of this work includes the operational requirements across numerous sites in the Perth central business district and how these facilities are currently used. Any potential solution put to cabinet needs to fully consider the movement of judiciary and all other participants in the criminal jury trial process. Of particular importance is the movement of persons in custody. The department is working to resolve this significant issue as a priority and continues to liaise with stakeholders.