

Freedom of Information Requests — Minister for Environment — Adjournment Debate

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [10.37 pm]: In the very short time that remains till the end of the adjournment debate, I want to draw the attention of the house to a problem I have been having with freedom of information requests. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich is doing a sterling job, and I have no doubt that she is not exaggerating when she says that on this issue she has enough material to take up the time of the house for the rest of the year. I will do the member a favour here and contribute one minute on this issue that I encountered when on 15 January this year I made a freedom of information request to see the diary of the Minister for Environment.

It seems from some of the comments made in this house that members opposite have no idea why we might be asking to see their diaries. They seem to think it is some sort of gross invasion of privacy, which illustrates that they are yet to come to terms with the fact that they are running this state and are very important public figures and as such their diaries can in no way be regarded as somehow being in the realm of their private lives. If they want private appointments, they can put them in their private appointment diaries. That is not what I am interested in. I am interested to see how ministers are conducting themselves, particularly in relation to their stake holdings.

The story as far as the Minister for Environment goes is one of dismal failure. From a request made on 15 January, I have been told only today that they still cannot give me a time frame for when I will receive this information.

House adjourned at 10.38 pm
