

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, EX GRATIA OR ONE-OFF PAYMENTS

522. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

For each agency under the Minister for Education's control -

- (1) Has the Minister approved any *ex-gratia* or one off payments in the years -
 - (a) 1998-1999; or
 - (b) 1999-2000?
- (2) If yes, how much was the payment for?
- (3) What was the purpose of the payment?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(3) The information sought is not held centrally and is, in fact, spread across all agencies in the public sector. The statutory requirements governing act of grace payments are stringent and the member may wish to refer to section 58B, regulation 25 and Treasurer's Instruction 319 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act (1985) for further information. In broad terms, the relevant minister can approve act of grace payments up to a maximum of \$2 000, and the Treasurer can approve payments of up to \$50 000, with payments in excess of \$50 000 also requiring the approval of the Governor. The request for information on every individual act of grace payment made during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 would require a considerable amount of administrative effort to collate and, in the circumstances, I am not prepared to devote valuable resources to such a task. However, should the minister require details of a specific act of grace payment or payments, I will arrange for that information to be made available.