

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, UNAPPROVED EXPENDITURE

2724. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the article in *The West Australian* newspaper of 4 December 2003, titled 'Departments' sloppy bookwork under fire' and ask -

- (a) which was the agency referred to in the article that had unapproved expenditure dating back 14 months;
- (b) what did the expenditure refer to;
- (c) what is the reason for the delay in approval;
- (d) who is the responsible Minister for that agency; and
- (e) has the Premier advised the Minister of the responsibility of their office and financial responsibility of the departments and agencies under their control?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) Department of Justice;
- (b) the expenditure related to accommodation, meals, fuel, parking fees, taxi costs, film and stationery;
- (c) the delay in approval was a result of late completion of claim forms and authorisation by incurring officers;
- (d) the minister currently responsible is the Minister for Justice. At the time, it was the Attorney General;
- (e) the responsibilities of Ministers and agencies are stipulated in the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.