Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 March 2022] p849c-849c Ms Mia Davies; Mr Mark McGowan

COMMUNITIES — POLICE RAID

107. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier. Can I just confirm that despite this being an issue for two weeks now, the Premier is unable to confirm the time line for an issue that is significantly impacting one of the departments in his government?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

No, I cannot confirm that. All I would say to the member is that I am happy to provide exact details and exact time lines. If I try to rely upon memory as to exact times or dates, I may get the times or days wrong and, therefore, will have to correct the record.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think the Leader of the Opposition has been in Parliament for a while. To ask for those sorts of details without notice is not the normal process. Normally, a member would give a little bit of notice so that I can give details in relation to those matters. That is just the normal process of Parliament. People who have been here for a while understand these things after a period of time.

In terms of the broader issue, I endorse what the Minister for Child Protection had to say. I want the member to understand that the issue arose because someone allegedly transferred a whole range of very confidential documents from a server to a private email address. The number of documents in question is 2 646, including 351 presentations and 332 spreadsheets. Much of that concerns highly personal and individual information about hundreds of children in foster care, and also about foster care organisations. Private and confidential information has been removed, which would no doubt cause a great deal of concern for the people and the families involved. That is why it is actually a serious matter that should not be treated flippantly.

The SPEAKER: Before I give you the question, member for Mount Lawley, I might just note for the audiovisual staff that, in the chamber, parts of the Premier's response sounded like he was talking under water. Although I heard every word relatively clearly, some sections were hard to hear. As I understand it from during the trial, sometimes the outside broadcast is perfectly clear, despite the sound quality in here. That is something we will need to work on.