

CRIMINAL LAW (MENTAL IMPAIRMENT) BILL 2022

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

I thank the Attorney General for the helpful advice his office has provided me regarding the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Bill 2022.

Aside from dialogue with the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime in May 2019, can the Attorney General please advise how and when other individuals or non-government groups representing the interests of victims of crime were consulted during the drafting of this bill?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General, I provide the following answer.

The Department of Justice consulted directly with the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime numerous times during the drafting of the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Bill 2022 in all three rounds of consultation. These rounds of consultation occurred in May 2019, February 2020 and October 2022. The Commissioner for Victims of Crime has extensive experience in, and knowledge of, supporting victims of crime and their families and engages in many different methods of consultation, both on specific reforms as they are being developed and matters of general policy. The office receives daily feedback from victims on all aspects of the justice system and uses all this feedback in developing comments and recommendations for systemic change.