

CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSIONER — REAPPOINTMENT

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

By way of explanation, I have confirmed that limbs (2) and (3) of the question are redundant and I am focused on question (1), as identified in the written question.

I refer to the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Amendment Bill 2021. Will the government continue with the precedent of appointment that it is establishing by way of this bill and seek to introduce a further bill or bills naming a replacement commissioner to the Corruption and Crime Commission should the position become vacant for any reason before the conclusion of Mr McKechnie's five-year term?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I provide the following response on behalf of the Attorney General.

The government would consider similar legislation to the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Amendment Bill 2021 only if the outstanding candidate, as chosen by the independent nominating committee chaired by the Chief Justice of Western Australia, was not able to be appointed by the method under the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003. The Department of Justice is currently conducting a full review of the act, which includes the appointment process set out under section 9. This is being done with a view to Parliament having the opportunity to debate reforms to the current section 9 process, which has been the subject of multiple calls for amendment, including by Hon Nick Goiran as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission in the thirty-ninth Parliament and Gail Archer, Senior Counsel, in her statutory review of the act.