

OFFICE OF THE STATE CORONER — CASE LOAD

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

Is the Minister for Regional Development answering questions on behalf of the Attorney General today?

Hon Stephen Dawson: Yes.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: Thank you.

Regarding the backlog of 808 cases at the Office of the State Coroner awaiting the completion of tasks by external agencies, can the Attorney General list the number of backlog cases per relevant external agency?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I note that I am not the Minister for Regional Development. The following answer has been provided by the Attorney General, and I provide it on behalf of the parliamentary secretary.

As at 13 March 2023, the data held by the Office of the State Coroner showed that the breakdown of the 808 cases awaiting the completion of tasks by external agencies was PathWest, 258; and the Western Australia Police Force, 550. The Office of the State Coroner is not able to delineate the number of cases with ChemCentre, pending a final toxicology report. Those cases are captured within the number of cases with PathWest, as the forensic pathologist will await the report from ChemCentre before being in a position to complete their supplementary post-mortem report to the coroner. The cases with PathWest also include cases pending neuropathology examinations, undertaken by PathWest neuropathology.