

CONNECT SOUTH WEST ASSOCIATION - FUNDING

**792. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for South West:**

- (1) What level of oversight, if any, has the South West Development Commission had over the operation of Connect South West and the grants given to Connect South West?
- (2) Will any further government-administered funds be granted to Connect South West after the 2007-08 payment of \$243 000?
- (3) How much of the \$2 million “information technology in the south west” grant has been spent on wages and consulting?
- (4) Why are there no financial declarations for Connect South West or the MySouthWest and/or mytown portals available to the general public, for example, listed on the MySouthWest website?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank Hon Nigel Hallett for some notice of the question.

- (1) Terms and conditions of a commission grant agreement require payment according to achievement of milestones and an annual audit of financial statements to acquit the grant.
- (2) No.
- (3) The initial grants paid were \$1 million for the purpose of developing e-commerce in the south west and \$1.2 million for the development of an online business, government and community portal. Of these combined grants, a total of \$897 591 was paid in salaries and to consultants between December 2002 and March 2006.
- (4) Connect South West is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation and is not required to publish financial reports.