

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — VOLUNTEERS — PAID LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS

858. Hon Martin Aldridge to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the Department of Productivity and Labor Reform Circular to Departments and Authorities No. 2 of 2001 titled *Paid Leave for Emergency Service Volunteers*. For each Department, Agency or Government Trading Entity under your portfolio, I ask:

- (a) how do you inform your employees of this policy; and
- (b) for the past two financial years:
 - (i) how many employees have requested paid leave as an emergency service volunteer;
 - (ii) how many employees have had a request refused;
 - (iii) how many total hours were granted; and
 - (iv) how many total hours were refused?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

- (a) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions – The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia (ODPP) publishes an internal Leave Reference Guide which outlines the various types of leave available to ODPP staff. Details about emergency service volunteer leave are included in this Guide, which is accessible by all staff on the ODPP intranet. New employees are also directly informed about the Guide as part of their induction training;

Solicitor General's Office – By email;

Legal Practice Board – By email to individual staff members;

Legal Aid WA – Information about available leave entitlements is provided during induction and available via the Intranet;

Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People – All staff appointment contracts are made with reference to the Public Service Award 1992 which contains details of Emergency Services Leave. All positions are advertised as positions under PSCSA Agreement 2021, which references the Public Service Award 1992;

Department of Justice – The Circular is not published as individual industrial instruments for all award types within the Department of Justice (Department) include paid leave for emergency service leave as an entitlement. In addition, the Department also has an Emergency Services Leave Policy, which is published on the Human Resources Policies and procedures page of the intranet;

State Solicitor's Office – As a sub-department of the Department of Justice, the State Solicitor's Office continues to apply the Department's Human Resources policies which include the Emergency Services Leave Policy, available on the Human Resources policies and procedures page of the Department's intranet;

Western Australian Electoral Commission – As part of the Commission's staff induction program, employees are made aware of leave entitlements available to them under the Public Service Award;

Crime and Corruption Commission – Leave entitlement for emergency services leave is provided in section 48 of the Corruption and Crime Commission industrial agreement 2013; and

Office of the Information Commissioner – A link to all Labour Relations circulars is available on the OIC intranet.

- (b) This detailed information is not readily available and would require considerable time to collate and prepare, which would divert staff away from their normal duties. It is not considered to be a reasonable or appropriate use of government resources to provide this information, noting that this question has been asked to all Ministers for all Government Departments, Agencies and Government Trading Enterprises.