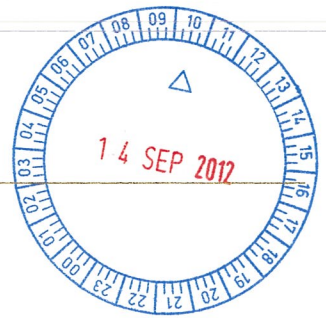




PUBLIC

14109112



Premier of Western Australia

Our ref: 24-125524

Hon Giz Watson MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Parliament of Western Australia
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms ^{Giz}Watson,

COMMITTEE EXPECTATIONS: 2012/13 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS

Thank you for your letter, dated 7 August 2012, regarding the Committee's expectations for Ministers and other witnesses appearing at Committee hearings.

I note the Committee's concerns raised in your letter. The content of Public Sector Commissioner's Circular 2010-03 reflects the importance of Parliamentary Committees in supporting the key functions of Parliament and the expectation that public sector officers will cooperate with Committees.

With respect to your specific comments on evidence provided by Ministers, it is my expectation that Ministers will endeavour to comply with the requests of Parliamentary Committees, wherever possible. However, I am mindful of the challenge faced by Ministers representing other Ministers, who provide evidence to the Committee on matters not relevant to their own portfolio responsibilities. While it may not be possible for representing Ministers to be fully versed in all matters pursued in a Committee hearing, all relevant information should be provided to the Committee, if not at the hearing itself, then as soon as practicable.

Thanks you for raising these issues with me.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA
PREMIER

11 SEP 2012