



10 October 2017

Your Ref:

Our Ref: WS0616/2017/WS0919/2017

Enquiries:

Hon Adele Farina MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council, Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

By email: lcpac@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Farina

Inquiry into WorkSafe – Request for documents

1. I refer to the Committee's request for documents, data and answers to questions on notice. The requests are set out in the transcript of the public hearing on 2 October 2017, the transcript of the private hearing on 2 October 2017, and in the Committee's letter to Simon Ridge A/Deputy Director General dated 5 October 2017.
2. I write to request additional time to answer the questions on notice, provide the requested data, and provide the requested documents.
3. Firstly, the time is required to allow me to obtain legal advice from the State Solicitor's Office, to ensure I respond appropriately to the requests. In some instances I understand that I may be required by the Legislative Council *Public Sector Employees: Liaison with Parliamentary Committees Guidelines*, to refer decisions to the Minister. To do this I need to identify the questions able to be answered immediately and those requiring legal advice. This process is currently being carried out.
4. Secondly, the requests require manipulation of varying databases, often with limited capability and ability to interact, obtaining information from divisions other than WorkSafe, and location and careful handling of sensitive documents when pulling files apart, copying and reassembling the files, to ensure they are not lost, damaged or misfiled. The request for documents includes approximately 70 000 pages of documents.
5. I confirm your advice at the private hearing, that you are content to initially receive the inspector's running sheets of their activities, and to then identify any further documents you require. To assist the Committee, I propose to provide the running sheets, from what is known as the WISE database, by 17 November 2017.
6. When I have your advice as to which, if any, additional documents are required, I will be able to advise of the additional time needed.

7. In relation to the documents requested in the Committee's letter to Simon Ridge A/Deputy Director General, I propose to provide the documents requested to the Committee by 27 October 2017.
8. In relation to the questions taken on notice during the public hearing on 2 October 2017, I propose to provide the answers to the Committee by 3 November 2017.
9. To protect the identity of individuals and witnesses, particularly those who have or are currently assisting with sensitive investigations, and information that may distress next of kin, we wish to redact names and contact details and any descriptions of legal advice in WISE documents. Please advise me whether this can be redacted or if the Committee requires this information.

I understand the Committee desires to obtain the documents to be able to do their work and I reassure you that WorkSafe will do everything they can to provide the requested documents.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Lex McCulloch
A/Deputy Director General Safety
WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner