

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — COMPLAINTS

5307. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to complaints about local governments, which were received in the 2017/18 and 2018–19 financial years by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and ask:

- (a) How many complaints were received in each year;
- (b) How many complaints were categorised as serious;
- (c) How many complaints related to:
 - (i) financial interest allegations;
 - (ii) misconduct;
 - (iii) fraud allegations; and
 - (iv) local government operations; and
- (d) Please provide a breakdown of the responses to (a) to (c) by local government?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) receives complaints in three different forms:

General complaints, via general correspondence.

Minor breach complaint, via approved form in accordance with s5.107 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Serious breach complaints, via approved form in accordance with s5.114 of the Local Government Act 1995.

General complaints are not recorded in the DLGSC local government complaints management system and are dealt with by way of letter.

Minor breach complaints are lodged with the Local Government Standards Panel and are in relation to alleged breaches of misconduct according to the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007.

Serious breach complaints are managed by the DLGSC Local Government Investigations Team:

55 per cent of serious breach complaints received in 2017/18 related to financial interests*.

47 percent of serious breach complaints received in 2018/19 related to financial interests*.

*Refers to complaints of alleged breach of ss5.65 and 5.67 of the Local Government Act 1995

Fraud allegations are a matter for WA Police.

[See tabled paper no 2717] for number and category of minor and serious complaints received.