

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — CITY OF MELVILLE INQUIRY — COMPLAINTS

2460. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the inquiry into the City of Melville and ask:

- (a) in the interests of transparency, will the complaints against the City of Melville be made available to the City and/or public:
 - (i) if no to (a), why not;
 - (ii) if yes to (a), on what date will they be made available to the City; and
 - (iii) if yes to (a), on what date will they be made available to the public;
- (b) did the Department investigate any of the complaints prior to initiating a formal inquiry:
 - (i) if yes to (b), how many complaints were investigated;
 - (ii) if yes to (b), how many complaints were finalised prior to the commencement of the inquiry; and
 - (iii) if no to (b), why not;
- (c) have any of the approximately 300 complaints against the City of Melville been investigated by the Public Sector Commission, Public Administration Committee, Ombudsman WA, Minister for Local Government and /or Freedom of Information Commissioner:
 - (i) if yes to (c), how many complaints have been investigated by each of the Public Sector Commission, Public Administration Committee, Ombudsman WA, Minister for Local Government and/or Freedom of Information Commissioner;
 - (ii) if yes to (c), has the department consulted with any of the aforementioned Public Sector Commission, Public Administration Committee, Ombudsman WA, Minister for Local Government and/or Freedom of Information Commissioner; and
 - (iii) will the decisions and opinions of the Public Sector Commission, Public Administration Committee, Ombudsman WA, Minister for Local Government and/or Freedom of Information Commissioner be considered as part of the inquiry; and
- (d) were any complaints deemed by the City of Melville to be unreasonable, in accordance with the Ombudsman WA's guidelines:
 - (i) if yes to (d), how many?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

- (a) No.
 - (i) The Department believes that persons or organisations that lodge complaints do so expecting a degree of privacy and that their personal details, where possible, will not be made public.
 - (ii)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) The Department worked with the City of Melville and met with complainants prior to making the decision to initiate the Authorised Inquiry
 - (i)–(ii) Nil.
 - (iii) There was a concerted effort by the Department to resolve the matter without conducting a formal investigation
- (c) The Department understands that the Public Sector Commission has investigated complaints related to misconduct of a City of Melville employee(s).

It is noted that the Minister for Local Government does not have the power to independently investigate complaints.

- (i) Neither the Department nor my office are privy to the number of investigations conducted by other agencies.
- (ii) Yes.
- (iii) Any decisions or opinions are made by other agencies in regard to their investigations and/or are independent of, and will not be considered as part of the Department's Authorised Inquiry.

- (d) The Department is not aware of any complaints being declared ‘unreasonable’ by the City, however this question should be addressed to the City.