

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS PANEL

4799. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the Local Government Standards Panel and ask can findings be made without councillors under scrutiny being interviewed and:

- (a) Why are councillors denied the opportunity to present their case; and
- (b) Has the Minister or his department received complaints about this part of the Standards Panel process:
 - (i) If yes, how many complaints were lodged in the years 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19;
 - (ii) What were the responses to the complaints by the Minister or his department; and
 - (iii) Did the Minister or any departmental staff recommend a change to the Standards Panel policy, if yes, when was it presented and to whom?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

- (a) The panel is a statutory decision-making adjudicative body empowered by the Local Government Act 1995 to take action, other than investigatory action, in relation to a complaint that a council member has allegedly committed a minor breach. Council members are provided with a copy of the complaint and any other information supplied and are invited to provide a written response. Matters are decided on the basis of the documents and submissions supplied by the complainant and the council member.
- (b) No formal complaints about the Local Government Standards Panel have been received.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.