

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER — BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND WORKS —
CONSTRUCTION SUBCONTRACTOR INVESTIGATION

711. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the report by the Small Business Commissioner, David Eaton, into the Building Management and Works subcontractor fiasco and his statement in the report that a contractor complaints file was requested by the investigation team but “it was not produced, nor was any explanation provided regarding this”.

- (1) Why was Mr Eaton denied the file?
- (2) Did the minister not mislead Parliament last week by saying that the contractor complaints information was provided to the Small Business Commissioner in December 2012 when his report clearly stated it was not and no reason was provided?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I assume the question relates to Building Management and Works and the inquiry that the Small Business Commissioner undertook into issues of lack of payment to subcontractors after a number of BMW head contractors went insolvent. The previous Minister for Finance commissioned an inquiry by Mr Eaton. I believe that the commissioner’s report was issued in March this year. My understanding, quite clearly, is that there was a failure on the part of BMW to provide an adequate complaints process to accommodate that and to have it. My clear understanding is that Mr Eaton was provided the information by BMW to the extent that it had it. That is what I have been informed.