

OMEX SITE, HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADVICE

193. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) On or around 9 May 2000 did the Health Department advise -
 - (a) the Bellevue Primary School;
 - (b) residents living near the Omex site; and
 - (c) medical practitioners in the Bellevue areathat emissions from the Omex site were not a risk to public health?
- (2) Was that advice correct?
- (3) How does the minister reconcile that advice with information that there were 153 exceedences of volatile organic compounds, 79 exceedences of sulfur dioxide and 28 complaints made by the community prior to 9 May?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. A letter was sent to the medical practitioners in the Bellevue area on 8 May 2000 and to the Bellevue Primary School on 12 May 2000.
- (2) Yes, based on information available to the Health Department.
- (3) The Health Department had not been advised of any exceedences of the action level for either sulfur dioxide or volatile organic compounds prior to 13 May 2000. The action levels were set as an operation objective and not necessarily as indicative of levels that would cause adverse health effects.