

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS — ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

1110. Hon JOCK FERGUSON to the minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the recent local government elections.

- (1) Can the minister advise how many formal reports he has received from returning officers that have indicated there is prima facie evidence of illegal activities on the part of candidates standing for election?
- (2) Will the minister list the local government areas from which each of these reports has come?
- (3) What steps will the minister take on each of these reports?
- (4) Will the minister undertake to ensure that where there is prima facie evidence of breaches of the electoral provisions of the Local Government Act, prosecutions will be undertaken?
- (5) If not, why not?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Late yesterday, the Minister for Local Government's electorate office received an email from a returning officer. He understands that this outlines allegations of potential breaches of the Local Government (Elections) Regulations and an assessment of these by the returning officer. The Minister for Local Government has been advised by the Electoral Commissioner that no Western Australian Electoral Commission returning officer reported evidence of illegal activities by candidates at the recent postal voting elections.
- (2) It is not appropriate to make this information available until the matter has been investigated.
- (3) The Minister for Local Government will refer this matter to the Department of Local Government for its assessment and advice.
- (4)-(5) The Minister for Local Government will refer any complaint received alleging a breach of the electoral provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 to the Department of Local Government for its assessment and advice.