

MR WINZER, PUBLIC INTEREST CLAIM

2498. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Further to question on notice No. 2176 tabled on September 23 2004. As the issues mentioned below were not discussed at the briefing, will the Minister now answer the following questions -

- (1) In light of the Minister's advice on May 6 2004 in regard to Mr Mike Harris providing all answers to the Minister in regard to Mr Winzer's public interest claim up until Mr Harris left the public service in 2002, will the Minister acknowledge that Mr Harris was one of the officers that Mr Winzer advised of in the letters listed in my previous question, as being subject to the police service criminal investigations resulting from Mr Winzer's public interest claim?
- (2) Will the Minister acknowledge the conflict of interest involved in Mr Harris advising the Minister in regard to his own conduct, that could potentially be found to be criminal?
- (3) Will the Minister acknowledge that the Government has been remiss in allowing Mr Harris to provide the advice that he did?
- (4) Will the Minister accept Mr Winzer's offer to immediately cease all of his efforts to achieve what would be the first investigation of his public interest claim, and thus conclude the expenditure of taxpayers money since 1995 in the order of \$750 000 to \$1 million, if it can be shown that the answers provided by the Department on the May 4 2004, were not misleading in regard to Mr Winzer's claim that no officers for the Department ever addressed his public interest claim or the evidence he offered on his initiative in support?
- (5) Will the Minister provide endorsement for the inquiry Mr Winzer is asking for in his Petition of Last Resort that is before the Standing Committee on Public Administration and Finance, that centres on the process Mr Winzer claims has been demonstrated since a meeting held in the office of Mr Harris on January 29 1999, and demonstrated most recently in the answers to Parliament on May 4 2004, to fabricate and disseminate seriously false information in regard to Mr Winzer's efforts to put his public interest claim?
- (6) Will the Minister acknowledge in regard to the documents tabled in the Parliament and answers provided May 4 2004, that these are the same documents upon which now Minister, Hon Kim Chance, reported to Parliament on September 6 2000, as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Administration and Finance, harassment of Mr Winzer and a twist of the truth in connection with the meeting held in the office of Mr Harris on January 29 1999?
- (7) In light of the Minister's advice on May 6 2004, in regard to the officers responsible for the answers provided in relation to Mr Winzer's public interest claim since the departure of Mr Harris in 2002, will the Minister accept that officers for the Department responsible for the Department's ministerial tracking and recording system have checked the system and advised Mr Winzer that Ms Helen Langley, one of those Mr Winzer has advised of as central to his public interest claim, has been responsible for answers provided to the Director General and thus the Minister?
- (8) Will the Minister table the Department's ministerial tracking system records in relation to my questions -
 - (a) December 20 2001;
 - (b) December 27 2001;
 - (c) March 27 2002;
 - (d) June 26 2002;
 - (e) August 15 2002;
 - (f) December 9 2003;
 - (g) December 2 2003;
 - (h) March 10 2004;
 - (i) March 12 2004; and
 - (j) April 6 2004?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

- (1) The question does not accurately reflect the advice given in my response of 6 May 2004. It is acknowledged that Mr Harris was one of the officers that Mr Winzer has named as being central to his public interest claim.

- (2)-(3) As previously advised, this matter has been investigated by a number of independent bodies, including the Western Australian Police Service. I am advised that there has been no evidence found of improper or criminal activities by the persons named by Mr Winzer as central to his public interest claim.
- (4) The Member is referred to my response to his Question of 4 May 2004. The tabled papers demonstrate the efforts by the former Department of Transport to address Mr Winzer's complaints.
- (5) No, as stated above and on previous occasions, this matter has already been investigated by a number of independent bodies. It should be noted that the petition has been lodged with the Environment and Public Affairs Committee and not the Public Administration and Finance Committee as stated in the Question.
- (6) The Minister is not prepared to devote the resources necessary to respond to these allegations
- (7) I am advised that Ms Helen Langley has not been personally responsible for answers provided to the Director General, Mr Greg Martin.
- (8) Parliamentary Questions are not recorded on the Ministerial Tracking System by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure nor were they by the former Department of Transport. Due to their urgent nature, Parliamentary Questions are transmitted through the Department as attachments to emails.