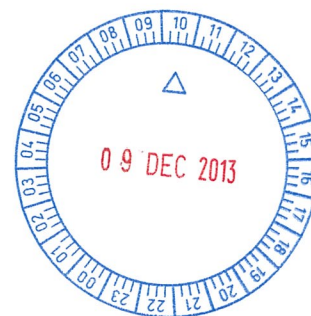


Our Ref: EXEC1931

Ms Samantha Parsons
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Legislative Council of Western Australia
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Ms Parsons

TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE – INCORRECT FACTUAL INFORMATION

Thank you for your letter providing a copy of a transcript of the evidence that I and other officials from the Housing Authority provided to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations on 18 November 2013.

I understand that the Minister for Housing has provided responses to the questions on notice and that my office forwarded you a copy of the transcript marked with typographical corrections yesterday.

In accordance with the instructions in your letter, I would like to clarify a comment I made on page six of the transcript. In response to a question on why the Authority demolishes public housing dwellings, I replied:

On average we would lose a house a week, so between 50 and 60 houses a year would get demolished due to fire.

I meant to say:

On average we would lose a house a week, so between 50 and 60 houses a year, to fire, and some of those houses would get demolished.

The figure I gave of between 50 and 60 houses a year is the approximate number of serious fires the Authority experiences annually. A serious fire takes a house out of the Authority's available public housing stock for anything from a few weeks to many months, depending on the extent of repairs required. There is no evidence to suggest that the rate of serious fires is higher for public housing properties than for the rest of the housing market.

The number of properties that will require demolition after a fire varies from year to year. As advised by the Minister for Housing in response to the question on notice Supplementary Information No. A3, in 2012-13 five properties damaged by fire

consequently required demolition, out of a total of 266 properties demolished that year. The primary reason the Authority demolishes a property is that it has reached the end of its useful life.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Searle', with a stylized, cursive script.

GRAHAME SEARLE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

5 December 2013