Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services

Notice Under Section 82 of the Financial Management Act 2006

Pursuant to section 82(1)(a) of the Financial Management Act 2006, I give notice to both houses that I have decided not to provide information to Parliament in response to the additional questions submitted from the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC from the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee.

The information being sought was:

1) I refer to the South West Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service and the lack of funding beyond 2017-18 and the claim by the government that it is undertaking a whole of government review of aircraft owned and leased by the State and I ask:

   a) Which agency is undertaking the review;
   
   b) What are the terms of reference;
   
   c) Who is conducting the review;
   
   d) When is the review due to report; and
   
   e) Will the review be made public?

I have decided that it is reasonable and appropriate not to provide the information being sought on the basis that the information is subject to Public Interest Immunity. The information being sought forms the submission to the Expenditure Review Committee that will then be used by Cabinet to make decisions.

Cabinet confidentiality is an essential part of the structure of Government and ensures that Cabinet members can freely exchange differing views as a necessary incident of the maintenance of the principle of collective responsibility.

My decision not to provide the information sought is a necessary consequence of upholding the importance of the principle of Cabinet confidentiality. I have considered whether it is possible to provide a redacted copy of the information being sought from which the material subject to Cabinet confidentiality has been removed. I have determined that this is not possible in all the circumstances because the material subject to cabinet confidentiality is so extensive that the information would be devoid of meaning and context.

The reasons set out above are provided in accordance with my obligations under section 82(2) of the Financial Management Act 2006. Notice is also being provided to the Auditor General in accordance with section 82(1)(b) of the Financial Management Act 2006.