



**STATEMENT BY CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES  
THE HON. KATE DOUST MLC**

Authorised by a resolution of the committee

**CCC report: Misconduct risks in electorate allowances for MPs.  
Legislative Council Committee works with WAPOL on related  
investigation.**

The Privileges Committee rejects the Attorney General's insinuation reported in Saturday's West Australian (p.11) that the Clerk of the Legislative Council became aware of a back-up drive due to a 'tip off' by Phillip Edman to MLCs. That insinuation is false and mischievous.

Further, the comment by the Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) spokesperson has been reported in a manner that suggests a causal connection between the 'tip off' in early September 2019 and the Privileges Committee issuing a summons for the back-up hard drive. This is also false and entirely without foundation. The summons was issued in November 2019 after receiving formal advice of the existence of the hard drive and other material.

The President and the Privileges Committee have full confidence in the Clerk who has acted under the direction of the House and the Privileges Committee at all times.

The Privileges Committee rejects the insinuation in various media reports that it is protecting politicians. The Committee has in fact been co-operating with the Western Australia Police Force (WAPOL) from the date it became aware of a related police investigation on 27 September 2019.

The Privileges Committee and WAPOL have agreed to memoranda of understanding to permit WAPOL access to all devices, including the laptops whilst protecting material subject to parliamentary privilege. WAPOL commenced its review of one laptop and one back-up hard drive on 12 October 2019 and has had access to all devices, on the parliamentary precinct, since 21 November 2019 with the full co-operation of the Committee. The police investigation has delayed the Committee's own review of the material. Some material has already been released to the CCC and further material is expected to be available for release shortly.

The Privileges Committee regrets that the CCC, unlike WAPOL, has refused to work with the Committee. This has led to the Legislative Council having to seek a ruling from the Supreme Court. It is unfortunate that the CCC has not taken the same co-operative and measured approach as WAPOL.

The court process should be respected and the President and Privileges Committee urges all parties to act professionally and responsibly in their interactions with the media.

**END**

**22 December 2019**

**NOTE TO EDITORS/NEWSROOMS:**

The President of the Legislative Council, the Hon Kate Doust MLC, will not be making any further public comment on this statement, or conducting any media interviews.



21 DEC, 2019

## Twist in MP rorts

Weekend West, Perth

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# Twist in MP rorts

## Edman tip-off on hard drive

**EXCLUSIVE PETER LAW  
& JOSH ZIMMERMAN**

Investigators were only told to hand back a hard drive at the centre of a corruption probe after disgraced former MP Phil Edman warned politicians it had dirt files on it.

Attorney-General John Quigley said he was concerned that a sequence of events outlined by the Corruption and Crime Commission raised questions about how Upper House clerk Nigel Pratt came to learn of the existence of Mr Edman's "back-up" hard drive.

The twist came as WA Police confirmed it was working with the CCC on "matters raised" in the watchdog's report into the use of electorate allowances by members of Parliament. But police would not reveal what potential crimes it was investigating.

The CCC seized two laptops and two external hard drives from Mr Edman's Shoalwater home on August 14.

On September 4, the CCC handed over the laptops and one hard drive to the Legislative Council privileges committee in anticipation of Upper House MPs voting to demand the devices be surrendered because the contents were protected by parliamentary privilege.

That evening, Mr Edman, pictured, sent texts to a mem-

ber of the Legislative Council. The first said: "Few fun videos on that laptop." The next day he wrote to the same MP: "CCC also has the back-up drive for the MP computer" and later: "Wine trip." Mr Edman told a former MP

the following day: "I need you to ring (name redacted) and explain this to him ... there's a back-up drive ... Cause the back-up drive has still got all the videos and all the other fun-loving stuff on there as well."

A CCC spokesman said after this call, the commission was summoned on November 13 by Mr Pratt to surrender a WD Elements external hard drive.

The order also required that "any cable and all electronic and hardcopy copies of the data contained on it in the possession of the commission" be handed over to the Legislative Council.

The CCC complied with the demand and ever since all the devices have been in Mr Pratt's possession. It's understood they are in a locked safe at Parliament

House.

Mr Pratt was approached for comment yesterday. After Mr Edman told 7NEWS he was worried information on his laptop could lead to politicians "losing their job", Education Minister Sue Ellery renewed calls for the privileges committee to return the laptop to the CCC.

### The West Australian



Thursday's West front page.



21 DEC, 2019

## Twist in MP rorts

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Weekend West, Perth





# Cops probe MP's laptop

**EXCLUSIVE PETER LAW**  
 State Political Editor

WA Police have been reviewing the contents of disgraced former Liberal MP Phil Edman's laptops and hard drives for the past 10 weeks, Legislative Council president Kate Doust has revealed.

Ms Doust said the Legislative Council's privileges committee had been co-operating with the force since it became aware of a "related police investigation" on September 27.

An interim report by the Corruption and Crime Commission last month alleged Mr Edman, below, rorted his electorate allowance to fund trysts with women he met on a match-making "sugar daddy" website.

She said a memoranda of understanding was agreed to permit police access to all devices, "whilst protecting material subject to parliamentary privilege".

Police started its review of one laptop and one back-up hard drive on October 12 and has had access to all devices "on the parliamentary precinct" since November 21, she said.

The devices have been kept in a Parliament House safe since the committee ordered they be surrendered by the CCC because their contents were subject to parliamentary privilege.

Ms Doust is under pressure from Labor Party colleague, Attorney-General John Quigley, to return the devices to the CCC so a separate probe into MPs' electorate allowances could continue.

The Labor MP said the police investigation has delayed the committee's own review of the material. "Some material has already been released to the CCC

and further material is expected to be available for release shortly," Ms Doust said in a statement. Police have declined to answer questions about what potential crimes the force is investigating.

After Mr Edman's laptops and hard drives were seized from his home in August, he warned associates there was material that would "bury f...n a lot of people and ruin their political careers forever".

Mr Edman later told a former MP on September 5: "I

need you to ring (name redacted) and explain this to him ... there's a back-up drive ... Cause the back-up drive has still got all the videos and all the other fun-loving stuff on there as well."

A CCC spokeswoman told The West: "After the telephone call referred to paragraph 396 of the report, the commission was summoned by (Legislative Council clerk) Nigel Pratt on November 13 to surrender to the Legislative Council a WD Element external hard drive and any cable and all electronic and hardcopy copies of the data contained on it in the possession of the

commission." Ms Doust said the "casual connection" between the "tip off" and the committee issuing a summons for the back-up hard drive was "false and entirely without foundation".

She said the summons was issued "after receiving formal

advice of the existence of the hard drive and other material".

She said the committee also "rejects the Attorney-General's insinuation" that Mr Pratt became aware of the back-up hard drive due to Mr Edman's tip-off to Upper House MPs.

"That insinuation is false and mischievous," she said.

Ms Doust and Mr Pratt are locked in an unprecedented Supreme Court battle with Mr Quigley and the CCC over access to Mr Edman's devices.





29 MAY, 2020

## LAPTOP SEX TWIST

West Australian, Perth

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# A-G in probe bombshell

# LAPTOP SEX TWIST

**PETER LAW**

Police are investigating if a laptop seized as part of the State MPs expenses scandal contains material showing the “sexual exploitation of minors”, WA Attorney-General John Quigley has revealed.

In a bombshell speech yesterday, he used parliamentary privilege to divulge the previously unknown nature of the criminal investigation into the contents of the device.

“A warrant was issued and a laptop taken, and that led to a criminal investigation. I’m not saying there is a crime committed because it is very hard sometimes to tell the age of Asian girls, very hard,” Mr Quigley, below, said.

“But there had to be an investigation as to what was on this computer and as to whether it involved overseas sexual exploitation of minors. That is still a current ongoing inquiry and a computer is locked away in this Parliament somewhere with that evidence . . . it has not yet been examined in detail.”

The laptop is at the centre of a Supreme Court battle between the Legislative Council’s Procedure and Privileges Committee and the Corruption and

Crime Commission.

The Legislative Council took possession of the laptop last year after arguing it was subject to parliamentary privilege. The laptop is being kept in a lock box inside a safe at Parliament House.

Two keys are required to open it. One is held by WA Police and the other by Parliament staff.

Mr Quigley did not say where the laptop came from or whose it was. WA Police confirmed its investigation into matters raised by the CCC probe into parliamentary allowances was continuing and no charges have been laid.

Mr Quigley said the CCC began its inquiry into allowances after the agency “stumbled across” several people in the course of another inquiry into WA’s former trade commissioner to Japan, Craig Peacock.

“It could not look away from emails on Mr Peacock’s computer that were communications from former Liberal member (Phil) Edman talking about wanting to get up to

Japan before 30 June to get hold of some ‘Asian honey,’” Mr Quigley said. “We all know what that meant — to get hold of some young Asian women.”

Mr Quigley turned Upper House Liberal MP Jim Chown’s decision to use his vote on a committee to block the reappointment of John McKechnie as the Corruption and Crime Commissioner into an election issue.

He said the Government would not proceed with legislation to reappoint Mr McKechnie until after the March 2021 poll.

“If they want Mr McKechnie, the best corruption and crime fighter the State has seen, they should vote Labor,” he said.



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## LAPTOP SEX TWIST

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Picture: Justin Benson-Cooper

