



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Peter Cain MLA on Thursday, 27 July 2023: Mr Andrew Barr took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 July 2023 [PAGE 31]]

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: Thank you. The Emergency Services Agency executive leadership review described behaviours by executives that were inconsistent with ACTPS values and described behaviours such as bullying, blaming and undermining each other. I am interested in the role of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner in terms of addressing these instances of behaviour which have been reported. From what I understand, no action has yet been taken.

Ms Leigh: Mr Braddock, the particular matter that you are discussing was the subject of a review which has been discussed publicly. It is a matter of what is a useful way to take forward particular matters. We all want to ensure that we are getting the best outcomes possible.

I cannot talk about any individual investigations that the Public Sector Standards Commissioner might undertake. In terms of the broader question that you are asking, the way that that issue has been addressed is through that review. That review has reported. It has a series of recommendations. Those recommendations have been broadly accepted. The head of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate will ensure the implementation of those responses and will be reporting regularly to the government on that implementation.

The answer regarding the concerns you are raising is that they have been absolutely addressed. Ways of responding to them have been identified. Those ways have been accepted, and the steps are now underway to implement those measures and to ensure that that is an ongoing process.

MR BRADDOCK: Those measures you refer to address some of the cultural concerns. I am asking about senior officers and whether they are accountable for where their behaviour does not meet the ACTPS values or the expected levels of behaviour.

Ms Leigh: The short answer to that is, of course, yes. There are many mechanisms. The public sector standards management legislation provides mechanisms for doing that. Those mechanisms are always followed appropriately and acted upon.

MR CAIN: As an example, Chief Minister, of an investigation—the Head of Service might do this—could you outline the big moments? What was the progression of the investigation? When was the report finalised? Was there a draft provided to someone? Who approved it, if any approval was needed? Can you highlight the big moments in this investigation?

Mr Barr: This was an investigation commissioned by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, so I will take on notice those questions on their behalf and get that information for the committee.

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The Director-General of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) announced the commencement of the Emergency Services Agency Executive Leadership Alignment Review (the Review) on 16 March 2023, and the Review team presented the Report to the Director-General of JACS on 30 June 2023. The Review team met and briefed the Director-General on progress of the draft Report in early June 2023. Approval by the Director-General was not required prior to the Report being formally provided to the Director-General. As the Review was independent of the Directorate, the Director-General accepted the Report; again, approval was not required.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date: 18/8/2023

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA