

TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION
OF AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA



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Dear Chair

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

We refer to the public hearing conducted by the above Committee into the Appropriations Bill 2012-2012 and the Appropriations (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2012-2013 with relation to the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Monday 25 June 2012.

As you will be aware during the hearing the Chief Officer (CO) of the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) fielded questions from the Committee regarding alleged breaches of policies governing the administration of privately plated vehicles in the ACTAS. During his response the CO made reference to allegations tabled by the Transport Workers' Union (TWU).

In reviewing the COs evidence before the Committee it is clear that the record requires correction. During his reply the CO appeared somewhat confused, genuinely or otherwise, about the nature of the allegations. Therefore, it would appear that a correction of the public record is required to assist both the CO and the Committee.

The TWU alerted the Director-General of Justice and Community Safety (JACS) to several alleged breaches of the conditions contained in Special Employment Arrangements (SEA) for General Managers in the ACTAS on 8 November 2011. In accordance with the JACS ACTAS Enterprise Agreement 2010-2011 the TWU sought a review of SEAs in relation to the serious nature of the alleged breaches,

including, however not limited to, Managers not being contactable during rostered on-call shifts and failure to obtain express authority for personal inter-state journeys.

In reply, the Director-General sought additional information from the TWU regarding specific incidents relating to the allegations. The Union replied to this request suggesting that to satisfy equity and avoid discrimination an audit of all vehicles, including poll point records from the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT), be undertaken.

We understand that preliminary investigations were commenced however suspended when information collected was found to have possibly breached workplace surveillance legislation. Notwithstanding this we anticipate written confirmation of the review of the SEAs and other workplace issues to be provided shortly.

We trust that the above assists the Committee in better understanding the evidence of the CO.

TWU Officials and members would be pleased to attend any forthcoming public hearing to provide additional statements and evidence in support of the above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Sweaney', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Benjamin Sweaney
Official

25 June 2012

CC: Chief Officer ACTAS
Director-General JACS