



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Redirected to:

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 28-29]

In relation to: Law reform suggested by DPP

Hearing Date: 30 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 31 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 5 August 2024

MR CAIN: So, Attorney, earlier in the year you summoned the then Acting DPP Mr Williamson to explain why a number of recent sexual assault prosecutions had been terminated. During questions without notice on 10 and 11 April you said that the then DPP said, "Actually, Attorney, there is a problem and we need to consider a law reform." What law reform did the then DPP suggest to you?

Mr Rattenbury: Firstly, Mr Cain, I reflect on your characterisation of the question. I did not seek to prosecute particular matters with the then Acting Director of Public Prosecutions. I sought to canvas with him policy questions about the way these matters were being handled.

I think that is an important reflection on that. I think it is appropriate for me to ask the Director those sort of questions because between the director's role and the government's role we have to think about how to make the system work effectively. On the specific question of law reform I cannot quite recall that quote so I will have to take that on notice and just come back to you. I will just check the Hansard record to make sure that I have got a full context on your question.

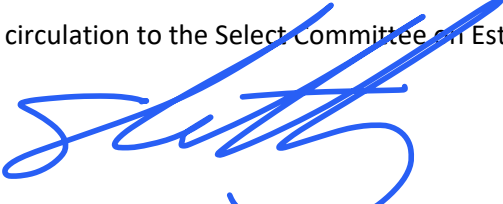
Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Mr Cain misrepresented what I said. The full quote in context is: "I asked the director about the concerns that had been raised with me. I was open to a full spectrum of answers. The director may

have said to me, “Actually, Attorney there is a problem and we need to consider a law reform,” through to the acting director providing me with a series of background information that details how a discontinuance is arrived at.”

Further information about the meeting, including meeting notes and follow up emails from the Acting Director, have already been provided to the Assembly.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:  Date: 9/8/24

By the Attorney-General, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA