



Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Peter Cain MLA on 15 November 2023: Mark Whybrow took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 15 November 2023, Page 8

In relation to:

MR CAIN: Just finally, can you table this advice for the HRIMS project, this accountant's advice? Are you able to table that to this committee?

Mr Whybrow: The accounting advice of the hiring of the project?

MR CAIN: For the write downs and impairments for the HRIMS project.

Mr Whybrow: I will take that on notice. I believe we—we had an external report identifying the basis of the assessment. Then that assessment was myself—I am a Fellow, a CPA of Australia—also the CFO of CMTEDD, concurred with our interpretation that the work done on that needed to be written off. So we did not go out and seek external advice to say for a system that is no longer going to be used, should we impair it and write it down.

That was, from my own professional judgment, and that of the CFO, the broad assessment of when we were looking at that time of whether or not if the project continued there would have needed to be an element of write down of that work. That work, there is an assessment made by an external to say what it is the quantum that would have been written down in the event the project was not ended.

So it was a smaller amount if you were going to continue and continue to work on it, or it was the whole amount, but we did not get an external accounting firm to say should we fully impair it but we did have a system expert identify the work that was done at that time, and if it was to continue there would have had to have been a write down anyway, so we could provide that advice because there is a report on that.

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

No external accounting advice on write-downs and impairments were sought for the HRIMS project.

Mr Whybrow identified there was external technology advice used to determine the impairment value.

The advice was provided as part of a technical assessment of the HRIMS project undertaken by Deloitte in September 2022.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 18/12/23

By the Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA