



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Mark Parton MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Sport and Recreation

In relation to: Operation Kingfisher and Legal action

Hearing: 31 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 14-15

Transcript provided: 4 August 2026

Answer Due: 11 August 2026

Mr Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MR PARTON: Minister, Operation Kingfisher outlined the communication David Ferguson had with Mr Ceramidas in relation to the Campbell Primary School Project. Is Mr Ferguson still employed as your Chief of Staff?

Mr Steel: Yes. And following the publication of the report, which made observations in relation to him, I commissioned a process under the LAMS employment framework into his conduct through the Chief Minister's office, which will ensure procedural fairness and also make sure that public confidence is maintained. So that is now underway.

MR PARTON: Minister, in August of 2025, Mr Ferguson filed an application for an interim injunction to prevent the commission from reviewing data on his phone. Mr Ferguson withdrew his claim and was ordered to pay costs. Did Mr Ferguson discuss this legal action with you? And if so, when?

Mr Steel: I will take that on notice.

MR PARTON: You do not know whether he discussed it with you?

Mr Steel: So I will take that on notice and confirm, because you are asked specifically when. And obviously it was publicly reported at the time as well.

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

I was informed that Court proceedings had been instituted on 27 July 2025.

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Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Steel', written over a light blue grid background.

Date: 4 / 8 / 26

By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Chris Steel MLA