



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Patterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into
Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and Appropriation
(Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023

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Minister for the Arts
Minister for Business and Better Regulation
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Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23

By email: LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au

6 September 2022

Dear Chair *James*

On 25 August 2022, I appeared before the Committee in my capacity as Minister for Business and Better Regulation. I wish to provide some further clarification regarding the below exchange (*Estimates 25-08-22 proof transcript, p449; p456*):

MS CASTLEY: Minister, I have a question about the ChooseCBR review. With respect to David Butler Consulting, I have done an online search, and I am wondering how you chose David Butler Consulting. I have struggled to find a website. I did find information about a David Butler Consulting, and the company was deregistered on 25 May 2018. I have not been able to find anybody else. Could you talk me through who David Butler Consulting is, and how we chose him?

Ms Cheyne: I will have to check. My recollection—and I will come back to this and confirm it shortly—is that I asked the Head of Service for a review to be conducted. The Head of Service identified David Butler and consulted with me on his appointment to lead that review. Having looked at his work history and his particular engagement in terms of technical aspects, he appeared to be appropriate. But it was not a consultancy that was commissioned by me.

MS CASTLEY: Would it have been a panel? Would he have been sole-sourced by the government?

Ms Cheyne: I do not know whether I can answer that, Ms Castley, as I did not do the procurement. It might be one for Ms Leigh. Can I come back to you in this hearing, after I have worked out what the process was?

MS CASTLEY: Yes. He would have needed to have an ABN, and all of that stuff, to be able to be paid, I assume. I am keen to understand. I could not seem to find the cost for the review.

Ms Cheyne: Yes, I am happy to take that on notice.

MS CASTLEY: And what involvement you had; why did you not have involvement in this? Could you explain that again?

Ms Cheyne: Because it was an internal review.

...

Ms Cheyne: Chair, I have some detail about the ChooseCBR direct consultancy. It might not be all the information, but I think that it will help. David Butler was appointed to the review by the Head of Service as a single quote because the value was less than \$25,000. The review cost \$23,750, inclusive of GST. He does have an active ABN. He has significant experience as a chief executive and senior executive, including with the OECD and the Australian Taxation Office. To go directly to your question: it was through direct procurement by the Head of Service, in consultation with me, including the terms of reference for that report. The report and its terms of reference are available online, but if it assists the committee I can email it to you.

THE CHAIR: Yes; that would be great.

For completeness, I advised that the Government would commission a review to evaluate the ChooseCBR scheme in my ministerial statement regarding the scheme on 22 June 2021. The terms of reference detail that this independent review would report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of the ChooseCBR scheme. My response, "Because it was an internal review" was my referring to it being a review into the administration of the scheme, but to avoid any confusion I wish to clarify that this was an external, independent review into the administration of the scheme.

The review report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 2 December 2021, together with a tabling statement. I emailed a copy of this report, which includes the terms of reference, to the Committee on 25 August 2022.

Sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA

cc: Ms Leanne Castley MLA