



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January 2022 – June 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
8 December 2022

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on 8 December 2022: Ms Christina Thompson took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard [uncorrected] Proof Transcript 8 December 2022, Page 22]

In relation to: Auditor-General Report, Table 1-1

THE CHAIR: Yes, okay. So then can you clarify in—are you looking at that table? Okay, so 2017-18 there were four reports from education and health but there was no outcome provided. Can you clarify whether those reports were sent to you guys, or not?

Ms Thompson: I would have to take that on notice to be able to cross-check the data.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Not all allegations of fraud are referred to the Public Sector Standards Commissioner (PSSC) for investigation. This is due to matters where an employee is summarily terminated from their employment for serious misconduct or where an employee has left the service prior to the detection of the alleged fraud. In both scenarios an independent misconduct investigation is not required.

Of the four matters reported against 'Health' in 2017-18 in Table 1-1, one allegation of fraud was identified as referred to the PSSC for investigation. This allegation was substantiated.

The ACT Education Directorate notes the figure in this table for 2017-18 appears to be incorrect when compared to the ACT Education Directorate annual report. The 2017-18 ACT Education Directorate annual report specifies two instances of possible fraud (not four) being investigated within the Directorate in this reporting period, with matters continuing to be investigated. Given the ACT Education Directorate reports these numbers within a narrative format, the error in the table may be the result of a transcription error.

The PSSC records indicate that no fraud related referrals were received from the ACT Education Directorate during FY 2017-18.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 15.12.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA