

CORRECTED

SUSAN CARROLL: We had a discussion when the matter was raised with the former secretary in relation to this, and advice was taken on that.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Who provided the advice?

SUSAN CARROLL: Legal advice was provided.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Why did you have to obtain legal advice?

SUSAN CARROLL: The matter that was raised with the former secretary related to the appointment of an officer to establish that transition office. The former secretary was alive to considerations relating to the employee functions.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: To clarify that, the ministerial office chief of staff requested the public service to appoint specific public servants to make those appointments within the GSE within the department to that so-called transition office?

SUSAN CARROLL: That's correct.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: There were concerns raised by the acting secretary at the time.

SUSAN CARROLL: Not by the acting secretary.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Sorry, by you.

SUSAN CARROLL: There was a discussion with the former secretary in relation to the requests that had been put to Transport, and advice was taken.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Such that legal advice was, in your view, prudent and necessary at that time given questions around that, that's correct?

SUSAN CARROLL: That was a matter that was discussed with the former secretary and that course was taken.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Can I confirm that the ministerial office gave that direction?

SUSAN CARROLL: Yes, that's correct.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Thank you. Minister Haylen, were you aware of this?

Ms JO HAYLEN: Firstly, I want to again say that here is a public servant doing exactly what their role is—that is, to provide advice. I thank them for that and value that advice. My understanding is that subsequently a recruitment process was run to head the transition office. That advice was sought on establishing that office and a recruitment process was run. That's the appropriate course of action. Again, I think it illustrates the value of robust and frank advice from a public servant to ensure that proper processes are followed, and in this case—

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Thank you, Minister, I'll redirect.

Ms JO HAYLEN: In this case, that's exactly what occurred.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Thank you.

Ms JO HAYLEN: A proper recruitment process was run, an appointment was made and the transition office is a critical function within the department of transport so that, as our Government, we can deal with the mess that we inherited across each and every—

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Thank you, Minister. I have four minutes left. I'll redirect—

Ms JO HAYLEN: Well, I would like to actually talk about some public transport issues. The transition office—

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: I'm getting to that, Minister. I have four minutes.

Ms JO HAYLEN: —that you raised—I'm giving context here. The establishment of a transition office was critical and remains critical because it is the place where each of these independent reviews that are coming forward to Government are then centrally dealt with and responded to.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Thank you. Minister, I'm going to redirect you now—

Ms JO HAYLEN: It's actually a critical way—

The CHAIR: Order! Minister—

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 Date: 23 / 2 / 2024
 Resolved to publish Yes / No