

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-20

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION – 1	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Okay. That is fair enough. So then we go to August. You have conducted hearings and interviews with witnesses in relation to the investigation. Were all of those persons you have spoken with inside the subject agency or were they a mixture of people in the agency and people outside of the agency?</p> <p>Mr BARNES: Certainly people within the agency were interviewed under oath. I can check that. I do not think there would be any difficulty answering that question in an honest tone.</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: If you could take that on notice and come back?</p> <p>Mr BARNES: Yes, certainly.</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Okay. And then in August again you conducted more interviews. Again, I would like to know if it was a mixture of people at SafeWork and people outside of SafeWork.</p> <p>Mr BARNES: Certainly.</p>	<p><i>Ombudsman / PO</i></p>
<p>ANSWER:</p> <p>The witnesses who have attended these hearings and interviews were both people at SafeWork and people outside SafeWork..</p>	

QUESTION – 2	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Okay. Is the nature of that complaint that somehow the work of SafeWork itself has been compromised, in terms of the enforcement work it does?</p> <p>Mr BARNES: I would need to, first, satisfy myself as to whether that is an accurate description and, secondly, satisfy myself whether it is appropriate that that be put on the public record. So I will come back to you in relation to that.</p>	<p><i>Ombudsman / PO</i></p>
<p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I consider that it is not appropriate to answer the question. There is currently evidence before me that I am considering for the purposes of reporting in accordance with my functions under the <i>Ombudsman Act 1974</i>. To provide commentary may prejudice the ongoing investigation, particularly where the agencies and individuals involved have not been afforded procedural fairness.</p>	