

# QUESTION ON NOTICE

## Question No. 57 of 2023

### Legislative Council

ASKED BY: The Hon Meg Webb MLC

ANSWERED BY: The Hon Leonie Hiscutt MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

#### QUESTION:

With regard to the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings can the Leader confirm the following:-

- (1) Initially the Commission of Inquiry information and records, including computer server and email system, were held by and in the custody of the Department of Justice; and
- (2) That at a later date the Commission requested that its information and records including computer server and email system be removed from the custody of the Department of Justice and Departmental servers and systems;
  - (a) when and by whom was this request made;
  - (b) what was the reason given for the request;
  - (c) where was the Commission's computer server and email system relocated, and when;

- (d) which entity or who now has custody or responsibility for the Commission of Inquiry information; and
- (e) are there any service level agreements or protocols in place governing the storage and disposal of Commission of Inquiry information and could the Leader provide details of these agreements and/or protocols?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) The Commission of Inquiry information and records were hosted on Department of Justice infrastructure which included email and records in SharePoint and Content Manager. Additionally, the Commission had access to shared systems such as the Empower Employee Self-Service System and the Squiz Matrix web site hosting platform.

The Commission engaged an external organisation (iCourts) to provide specialist services for Commission hearings including the recordings and the collection, collation and management of evidence. These services were not accessible by the Department of Justice staff.

The Commission's network infrastructure was separated from that of the Department into a partitioned zone in October 2021 which allowed very tight control over entry and exit points between the Commission's systems, the Department of Justice and members of the public making submissions or seeking information.

Access to those services set up specifically for the Commission by the Department of Justice ICT branch was tightly controlled and limited to a small number of ICT operations staff for the purposes of providing support to the Commission's staff.

Department of Justice staff had no access to Commission records or information at any time.

- (2) During the life of the Commission no request to remove the Commission's information and records including computer server and email system from the custody of the Department has been received by the Department.

(a) N/A

(b) N/A

(c) N/A

(d) The information is in the custody of the Office of the State Archivist in accordance with *Archives Act 1983*.

(e) A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was entered into with the Commission of Inquiry in July 2021 for the provision of a range of support services including ICT support. The SLA included a clause governing the storage and disposal of information and records created by the Commission in the course of the Agreement. The disposal of the original copies of the digital information and records was undertaken in accordance with the SLA.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

The Hon Michael Ferguson MP  
Acting Premier

Date: 12 December 2023