

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES — FIFTY-FIFTH REPORT —
EMAIL ACCESS

926. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer the Premier to his response to question without notice 884 on Wednesday, 21 August 2019, in which he stated that he could not provide an answer on whether the network account of any current member of Parliament or their electorate office had been accessed because —

These are matters before the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges, and it would not be appropriate to continue to comment on this matter.

I remind the Premier that the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges is dealing with former members, not current members of Parliament.

I also refer the Premier to the budget estimates hearing of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in 2018, in which Hon Tjorn Sibma asked —

... has a member of Parliament's network account or their parliamentary electorate office's email account been accessed by DPC staff without the knowledge of the member or their staff?

The response of the director general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Darren Foster, was —

As a matter of principle, it is not something I would authorise for any member of Parliament because I think it sets a very dangerous precedent. I can assure you that it has not happened in the time that I have been director general.

- (1) Why was a response provided to the question asked during the 2018 budget estimates session and not to question without notice 882 asked on Wednesday, 21 August 2019?
- (2) Will the Premier now confirm whether the network account of any current member of Parliament or their electorate office's email account has been accessed by DPC staff or any other government agency without the knowledge of the member or their office staff; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) I refer the honourable member to the answer the Premier gave in the other place on 28 August 2019, and I quote —

I rise under standing order 82A. In response to the member for Moore's question, I can advise that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has not read or accessed any past or present member of Parliament's emails. Any emails that are subject to a current Corruption and Crime Commission inquiry have not been read by any person who works in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The PRESIDENT: I give the Leader of the Opposition the call.

Hon PETER COLLIER: So he misled the house last time he answered my question?

Hon Sue Ellery: I don't think I've misled the house, but if you think —

Hon PETER COLLIER: You go back and have a look.

Hon Sue Ellery: If you think that, you know what you need to do.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I certainly do.

The PRESIDENT: All right, it is question time.