

ATTORNEY GENERAL — LEGAL REPRESENTATION — APPROVAL

779. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's decision on 13 June 2016 to approve the retention of external legal representation for the state of Western Australia by the Insurance Commission of WA, Paul Evans, David Hargreaves, Rod Whithear and Bruce Meredith.

- (1) Which legal firm, or barristers, have been retained for each of the above parties?
- (2) How much has been spent so far in the provision of legal representation for each party?
- (3) What is the amount that the Attorney General approved to be spent on legal representation for the above parties?
- (4) Has the Attorney General approved the retention of external legal representation for any other party; and, if so, who and how much has been spent?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The legal firm retained is Jones Day. The barristers briefed are Noel Hutley, SC, and Imtiaz Ahmed.
- (2) It is not appropriate to disclose the amount of costs that have been incurred as the matters to which they relate remain unresolved and are pending before the courts.
- (3) As the matters involve the protection of the interests of the state and the Insurance Commission of Western Australia, no present overall or particular limit has been imposed, but the state, through the Department of Treasury, is monitoring the costs involved.
- (4) I, as Attorney General, have approved external representation for members of the authority constituted under the Bell Group Companies (Finalisation of Matters and Distribution of Proceeds) Act 2015. Although costs have been incurred, no accounts have yet been received for payment.