

WORKSAFE — WORKPLACE INSPECTORS

5958. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to my question on notice No. 5514 in relation to WorkSafe inspector vacancies, and I ask —

- (1) What is the procedure for carrying out WorkSafe investigations? Please outline —
 - (a) the steps taken and associated timeframes; and
 - (b) table any relevant guidance documents.
- (2) What is the procedure for carrying out WorkSafe inspections? Please outline —
 - (a) the steps taken and associated timeframes;
 - (b) explain how this differs from the procedure for WorkSafe investigations; and
 - (c) table any relevant guidance documents.
- (3) Who coordinates inspections and investigations of workplaces and/or accidents?
- (4) How are WorkSafe inspectors allocated to investigations of workplaces and/or accidents?
- (5) What is the optimum workload/caseload per year for a —
 - (a) General WorkSafe inspector; and
 - (b) Specialist WorkSafe inspector?
- (6) What was the average workload of each WorkSafe inspector for the —
 - (a) 2007–08 financial year;
 - (b) 2008–09 financial year;
 - (c) 2009–10 financial year; and
 - (d) 2010–11 financial year?
- (7) What was the average workload of each specialist WorkSafe inspector for the —
 - (a) 2007–08 financial year;
 - (b) 2008–09 financial year;
 - (c) 2009–10 financial year; and
 - (d) 2010–11 financial year?
- (8) How, if at all, are inspections and investigations of workplaces impacted by an increased WorkSafe inspector workload?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)–(2) WorkSafe's computerised system does not distinguish between investigations and inspections.

WorkSafe inspectors carry out investigations and inspections as efficiently as possible in accordance with the training provided as part of their induction and in line with the following tabled documents titled: 'WorkSafe Enforcement Policy' [See paper 5214.] and 'WorkSafe inspectors' [See paper 5214.]
- (3) The managers in WorkSafe's three industry-based operational directorates.
- (4) Allocations are made on the basis of the operational needs of WorkSafe and by the operational managers making a judgement about the nature of the investigation based on the information provided and the skills and experience of individual inspectors.
- (5)–(7) WorkSafe does not record inspector activities in terms of workload. Consequently, it is not possible for these statistics to be provided.
- (8) WorkSafe inspectors continually demonstrate their commitment to occupational safety and health and provide a high level of service to Western Australian workplaces during fluctuations in work levels.