

COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES — RESIGNATION

56. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the dismissal of the Commissioner of Corrective Services, Mr Ian Johnson.

- (1) Why did the minister not meet the former corrective services commissioner in the time prior to his sacking?
- (2) Who made the decision to sack the commissioner and what were the grounds upon which he was sacked?
- (3) Who informed the Public Sector Commissioner that Mr Johnson's services were no longer required?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

- (1)–(3) I have very simple answers. Firstly, I believe the former commissioner took his four weeks' annual leave just a number of days before the new cabinet was sworn in. As he was on leave for the first four weeks, I never had the opportunity to meet him. Secondly, in that time I essentially did a cold-eyes review of the department. I looked at a number of issues that I was concerned about and the direction in which that department was travelling. In consultation with my colleagues and government, we determined that we believed the Department of Corrective Services needs to change direction on a number of different issues. Thirdly, I was not in the room when the Public Sector Commissioner had the conversation with Mr Ian Johnson, so I would suggest that that question really needs to be directed to the minister for public sector management.