

PLUMBERS LICENSING BOARD — REVENUE

6205. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to the Auditor General's Public Sector Performance Report (Report 9 – June 2012) and specifically to the finding that the reported revenue received from plumbers did not match the increasing industry activity, and I ask —

- (1) What steps, if any, is the Department of Commerce (department) taking to ensure clearer communication with the Plumbers Licensing Board (board)?
- (2) Please specify how, if at all, the steps detailed in (1) will ensure that in future —
 - (a) the roles and responsibilities of the board and the department are clearly defined and enacted;
 - (b) the board will be involved in significant decisions affecting its mandate; and
 - (c) the board will be provided with timely, accurate and complete information to enable it to effectively monitor risks, finances and operational performance?
- (3) Will the department guarantee that the board will be entitled to receive independent legal, accounting or other advice in relation to future issues involving the department and the board?
- (4) If no to (3), will the department give the board timely access to any legal, accounting or other advice it obtains in relation to future issues involving the department and the board?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The Director General meets regularly with the Chair of the Board. The Director of Licensing and Applications is appointed as the Executive Officer to the Board to coordinate communications between the Building Commission and the Board, and Board documentation and processes are focussed on key Board responsibilities.
- (2)
 - (a) Board documents and papers are focused on the board's four functions.
 - (b) The Chair meets regularly with the Minister and the Director General.
 - (c) The Executive Officer works closely with the Chair to prepare Board papers and briefings.
- (3) Yes, where the advice is requested by or relates to the Board.
- (4)–(5) Not applicable.