

**INSOLVENCY AND REDUNDANCY — MR AND MRS FALSO**

*Statement*

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Finance)** [10.27 pm]: I would like an opportunity to respond, because I was asked to respond during a member's earlier statement, so I would like to briefly do that, with your indulgence, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** I am happy to grant that extra 10 minutes.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Thank you very much. Hon Ljiljana Ravlich raised an issue that had been raised with her by a Mrs Falso. She described the correspondence she received from Mrs Falso who, with her husband, obviously has some very frustrating and difficult circumstances to work through. The correspondence from Mrs Falso made its way to my MP email in several messages on the afternoon of Thursday, 26 April. A message also went to my ministerial address, and it was dealt with by my ministerial office. I have followed up the matter anyway, but my ministerial office is already addressing it and I am very pleased to see that. I notice that the email was sent to Hon Ljiljana Ravlich; Fran Logan, MLA; John Quigley, MLA; Hon Kate Doust; and a number of other people. I do not know that I heard from any of those people until I heard from Hon Ljiljana Ravlich raising the matter here in the house tonight, as it is her prerogative to do so if she wishes.

I can tell members that the first actual accessing of the message was via a message sent by Mrs Falso, which was received by my chief of staff at 3.58 pm on Thursday, 26 April. By 4.08 pm on Thursday, 26 April I had received advice from my chief of staff that I had received the email, and that he had already spoken with Mrs Falso and was dealing with the matter. At that stage, of course, we could not know what the ultimate outcome would be but suspected in large part that it would be a matter for the federal government to deal with. Nonetheless, I give an undertaking to the house and to Mrs Falso that we will do what we can. I will bring to bear my own influence and capacities and those of my agency and my office to do what we can to investigate the matter and to remedy any injustice we discover, whilst noting it is not primarily in the state government's jurisdiction, although that remains to be seen.

I simply rise to advise the house that it is important enough for the matter to be raised during members' statements, and I am sure the house is reassured that we have been on the job with this issue since the first minute this message was received last week.

*House adjourned at 10.31 pm*

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