

TAXIDRIVERS — PASSENGER COMPLAINTS

1020. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the minister consider it is appropriate to answer a parliamentary question by telling a member to google it?
- (2) If no to (1), why did the minister answer question on notice 4713 by advising me that the phone number at the Department of Transport that passengers can call to make a complaint regarding taxidrivers can be obtained by searching for “Taxi complaints WA” on Google?
- (3) Does the minister know what happens when he googles “Taxi complaints WA”?

The PRESIDENT: Is that question without notice to the Minister for Finance?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That is correct, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: I will call the Minister for Finance to answer the parts of that question that are relevant to his portfolio.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

None of it is relevant to my portfolio, Mr President. The question on notice —

Hon Ken Travers: It's relevant to your answers!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Shut up for one minute, you long streak of misery!

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: The questions on notice were asked of the Minister for Transport. Because the Minister for Transport is not in this place, the answers are provided by the Minister for Transport but delivered for inclusion in the record under my name. I actually do not think it is appropriate to answer a question like that by saying, “Just google it.” I did not think it was appropriate when Hon Ken Travers's colleague Hon Ljiljana Ravlich used to provide answers when she was a minister.

Several members interjected.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I was not aware of this answer, and now new arrangements have been put in place as a result of that. I have already spoken behind the Chair with the honourable member, so I am surprised that he chooses to use the opposition's valuable question time on this sort of childish attempt at point scoring. I do not think that is an appropriate answer. As I have told the member before, if I had been drafting the answer—in future I will be—the number would have simply been provided. Okay; so there you have it!

Hon Ken Travers: And part (3): do you know what happens when you google it?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Again, I am surprised that opposition members want to use their question time on pursuing this sort of pointless little exercise.

Hon Ken Travers: It's not pointless.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: It just shows the level of opposition that we have.

Hon Ken Travers: Complaints against taxidrivers is a very serious issue. That's what this is about.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: It is all right if this is all that the honourable member can do. It is opposition members' question time and they can waste it as they see fit.