

JOHN HOLLAND — LITIGATION

419. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Treasurer's accusations, reported inter alia in *The West Australian* of 12 February 2019, against construction firm John Holland of "selective media leaking" about litigation involving the state.

- (1) Does the Premier have any evidence that John Holland was responsible for that leak; and, if so, what is it?
- (2) Has he made any inquiry into whether the source of the leak was someone connected with government?
- (3) If yes to (2), what inquiry has he conducted, when and with what result; and, if not, why not and when will he do so?
- (4) Was one Kieran Murphy of his department connected with the leak; and, if so, how?
- (5) Can he unequivocally assure the house that no-one in his office was the source of the leak?
- (6) Can he unequivocally assure the house that no-one connected with government was the source of the leak?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(6) The Premier is unsure why the honourable member directed the question to him rather than the Treasurer. It also appears that the member based his question on a gossip column rather than the article of 12 February 2019 mentioned in his preamble. The Premier can assure the house that no-one in his office was the source of the information, and assumes that no government official would act against the interests of the state.

As reported in *The Sunday Times*, an initial provision for legal expenses has been allocated in order to represent the best interests of the WA taxpayer in the dispute concerning the Perth Children's Hospital. The government takes its position on the matter seriously and will take whatever action necessary to protect the interests of WA taxpayers.

The Premier would also like to take the opportunity to remind the house that it was this Labor government that took control of the project to remediate the lead problem and get the Perth Children's Hospital open. Furthermore, if members would like further insight into the mismanagement of the project by the former Liberal–National government, they can read the unanimous report from the Assembly's Public Accounts Committee.