

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — SUBCONTRACTORS

759. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Do standard government contracts provide that the use of any subcontractors must be agreed to by the state government?
- (2) If yes, why is the minister not able to provide details of the number of jobs that the state government has allowed to be exported overseas?
- (3) If no, what control does the state government have to ensure that any work carried out by subcontractors is undertaken by reputable people and companies?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)–(3) I know that the member, probably encouraged by a branch of the union movement, wants to create an issue out of a contract that was issued to get some work done as part of the decommissioning of the Office of Shared Services. The basis of that premise is to claim that there is some secret agenda by this government to opt for exporting Western Australian government jobs rather than employing Western Australian public servants. There is no such conspiracy. This was made clear during a debate held, I think, last week that was initiated by Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich. That is the beginning and the end of the matter. As I explained to the house then, for a variety of reasons, it is not possible to research every government contract in a short time frame to extract the sort of information that he requires.