

COURT SECURITY AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Corrective Services) [2.11 pm]: I wish update the house on the future of the court security and custodial services contract. The current court security and court custodial services contract was awarded to Serco in 2011. Under this contract, Serco Australia Pty Ltd has provided court security and court custody services at major metropolitan and regional courts throughout Western Australia. This also includes a range of services transporting people in custody between police lockups, courts, court custody centres, prisons and remand centres, and other movements such as hospital transfers.

Under the current contract, Serco was offered an initial operating period of five years, which expires on 30 June 2016. Clause 5.2 of the contract allows for extensions on the contract for up to a further five years. However, the Department of Corrective Services must advise Serco of its intentions to extend the contract by 30 July 2015. Due to changes in policy and circumstances, there have been a number of variations to the contract. In order to make an informed decision on the future of the contract, I have asked the Commissioner of Corrective Services to work with the director general of the Department of the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Police on a review of the current contract. As a result of the review process, the government has now informed Serco that it does not intend rolling over that contract. Tender documents will be released for public tender in the coming months.

The Department of Corrective Services will identify future service delivery options and advise the government on its preferred service delivery model. I acknowledge that there is continuing debate about whether the functions under the present contract should be undertaken by the public or private sectors. The government will be guided by what represents the best value for money for the people of Western Australia; however, the priority will always be the safety of the Western Australian community.