

YOUTH DETENTION — INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

1721. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the minister representing the Minister for Police; Corrective Services; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues:
- (1) I refer to the Infrastructure Review to determine the State’s long-term youth detention needs, announced on 22 June 2023, and ask:
- (a) is the Department of Justice conducting the review internally or has input been sought from external stakeholders;
  - (b) if yes to (a), please list the stakeholders involved and the capacity they are involved in the infrastructure review;
  - (c) has the infrastructure review started;
  - (d) if yes to (c), what is the anticipated time frame for the infrastructure review;
  - (e) when will a report be finalised;
  - (f) will a report or presentation of results be made public;
  - (g) if yes to (f), when;
  - (h) on Monday 16 October 2023, the Minister stated in an article in the *West Australian* he expected infrastructure review would likely recommend “a purpose-designed and built facility...”:
    - (i) does the Minister anticipate the infrastructure review will recommend building a new youth detention facility; and
    - (ii) if no to (i), what did the Minister mean by these comments; and
  - (i) will the infrastructure review consider youth bail houses?
- (2) has the Department of Justice engaged an individual/s to lead the implementation of the new operating philosophy and service model now that Tim Marney is not in that role?
- (3) has the Minister considered the establishment of a separate Office for Youth Justice, similar to the Offices for Homelessness or Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence within the Department of Communities:
- (a) if no to (3), will the Minister request a business case be developed for this as part of ongoing reforms; and
  - (b) if no to (3), what is the rationale for not considering the establishment of a separate office for youth justice?

**Hon Stephen Dawson replied:**

The Department of Justice advises:

- (1) (a)–(b) The review is being undertaken internally by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, WA Treasury and the Department of Justice.
- (c) (i) The infrastructure review is well-advanced and is expected to be complete in the near term. The document will be Cabinet in Confidence. The review is considering current, planned and potential youth custodial and diversionary infrastructure.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Department is establishing a new Deputy Commissioner position to focus solely on young people, including directing and controlling the State’s juvenile justice facilities.