

ST JOHN AMBULANCE — SERVICE DELIVERY

1117. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the media release from the Minister for Health on 9 August 2022 entitled ‘new era for ambulance services to deliver contemporary care’ which includes the statement that the Government is working on ‘a more contemporary contract which includes introducing new performance management measures, strengthening clinical oversight, and improving transparency on how public funds are spent’, and I ask:

- (a) are negotiations for a new contract with St John Ambulance underway;
- (b) if yes to (a), when is a new contract expected to be completed and signed;
- (c) if yes to (a), will the contract include any clauses that will prevent St John Ambulance from reporting problems directly to the public or prevent St John Ambulance from criticising the Government or its policies; and
- (d) if yes to (c), do these gag clauses meet the Government’s new version of gold standard transparency?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) Negotiations with St John Ambulance WA (SJA) are now complete.
- (b) The new agreement between SJA and the State of Western Australia commenced on 1 January 2023.
- (c) The new agreement outlines the communications protocol, prepared by SJA and approved by the State, detailing the circumstances under which SJA may disclose information to the media.
- (d) The communications protocol has been agreed to between the parties. Reporting to the public will be transparent.