

MR WARD — EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO FAMILY

2212. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services

I refer to the ex-gratia payment for the family of Mr Ward who died in custody, and I ask —

- (1) On what date was the request for an interim payment made by Mr Ward's family?
- (2) On what date did the Government provide a substantive response to that request?
- (3) On what date was the request for a final payment made by Mr Ward's family?
- (4) On what date did the Government provide a substantive response to that request?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

- (1) The request for an interim payment to Mr Ward's family was made on 15 January 2010 by their Solicitor.
- (2) The Attorney General responded to this request on 8 February 2010, advising he would take the submission to Cabinet as soon as possible and request the Executive to approve the payment. The Attorney General wrote to the Ward Family's Solicitor again on 25 March 2010, confirming that the interim ex-gratia payment to Mr Ward's family had been approved by Cabinet.
- (3)-(4) The initial request for an ex-gratia payment was received from the Ward Family's Solicitor on 7 July 2009. However, further clarification was needed on the terms of the ex-gratia payment. Since that time, there have been continuing discussions between the Ward Family's Solicitor and the Government. The two parties met on 9 April 2010 and Mr Ward's Family's Solicitor wrote to the Attorney General on 16 April 2010 with submissions for the ex-gratia payment. That letter is currently being considered by the Government.