

CHILD PROTECTION — CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

1840. Hon Ben Dawkins to the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the practice of removing children from their parents after a report of physical punishment or smacking, and I ask:

- (a) can the minister advise if and when smacking a child for disciplinary purposes is legally allowed;
- (b) how many reports of unacceptable physical punishment did the Department of Child Protection receive in the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023;
- (c) how many reports of unacceptable physical punishment did the Department of Child Protection act on and investigate in person in the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023; and
- (d) how many times were children removed from their parents following a report of unacceptable physical punishment in the period January 2023 to 30 June 2023?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

- (a) This question is out of order under Standing Order 105 (1) (b).
- (b)–(d) The Department of Communities advises unacceptable physical punishment is not terminology used and therefore this information is not available.