

HEAD CONTRACTOR FINANCIAL RELIEF

522. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the head contractor financial relief scheme for Departments of Finance and Communities projects first announced in May 2022.

- (1) How many applications had been received under the scheme as at 30 April 2023?
- (2) How many applications have been successful in receiving relief?
- (3) What is the total amount of relief paid out under the initial \$30 million relief scheme?
- (4) Will the \$37 million announced in last week's budget be tied specifically to projects impacted by FIRM Construction entering into administration?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Departments of Finance and Communities have received a total of 127 claims under the head contractor relief scheme as at 30 April 2023.
- (2) Of the 127 claims received by Finance and Communities, 113 had been successful in receiving relief as at 30 April 23.
- (3) Claims totalling approximately \$7.4 million have been approved under the scheme as at 30 April 2023.
- (4) The government has approved funding of up to \$33.7 million to cover cost escalation and increased costs on projects originally awarded to FIRM Construction. This cost escalation resulted from the retendering process when prices in the construction market had increased significantly since the original FIRM contracts were awarded. Other unavoidable costs included transportable classrooms required for school projects awarded to FIRM that could not be delivered within the original time frame.