



ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

Our Ref: 44-21497

Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien

PETITION NO.98 – REMAND FACILITY FOR WOMEN

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2016 regarding comment in relation to bail and remand data.

I understand that you have been advised by the Minister for Corrective Services that the Department of the Attorney General holds the information you have requested. While it is correct that my Department does have electronic records relating to persons granted bail or remanded, information at the level of detail you require is not available. Information is not kept electronically on the reasons why a person is refused bail, or the reasons why a person has not been able to be released on bail, even though bail has been granted, and it is unlikely that this level of detail is recorded electronically by any other department. As such, I am unable to assist you with this request for information on this occasion.

In theory, it may be possible to source some of this detailed information from discussions in court around the decision to grant or refuse bail via transcript of court hearings. This would involve many thousands of records and would likely prove to be an extremely resource intensive process. However, if the Committee would like to further investigate this possibility, it would be necessary for the Committee to approach the heads of the various courts for access to transcripts.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Michael Mischin MLC
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

19 MAY 2016