



ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

Our Ref: 44-23782



Hon Liz Behjat MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Behjat ⁴³

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE – REPORT 26: TRANSPORT OF PERSONS IN CUSTODY

Thank you for your letter dated 7 September 2016 requesting my response to Recommendation 9 of the Standing Committee on Public Administration's *Report 26: Transport of Persons in Custody*, which recommends the Magistrates Court at the Northbridge Police Complex be funded to operate seven days per week.

Currently the Magistrates Court of Western Australia operates at the Northbridge Police Complex every Saturday and Sunday. The operation of this service is funded by recurrent funding which includes allocated funding for the special appointment of acting magistrates to preside on Sundays.

The increase in costs associated with court security, custodial services and the additional judicial resources required to operate the Magistrate Court at the Northbridge Police Complex will be substantial, whilst any savings are likely to be marginal. However, I have asked the Department of the Attorney General to continue to evaluate the situation in conjunction with the Department of Corrective Services on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Michael Mischin MLC
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
27 SEP 2016