

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

13 NOV 2012

Tuesday, 23 October 2012

6340. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health.

With reference to the death of Cyril Walter Hunter of 128 Knowsley Street, Derby on 5 November 1983, I ask --

(1) Were Post Mortem exhibits of blood, brain, liver, kidney and fat tissue taken for examination?

(2) If yes to (1), will the Minister provide evidence to that effect?

(3) Was toxicological testing carried out on those samples?

(4) If yes to (3), what were the findings of these tests?

(5) If no to (3), why not?

(6) Are those exhibits still available in the laboratories long-term storage areas as indicated in the letter to the State Coroner, Mr Alistair Hope from the Chief Forensic Pathologist, Dr CT Cooke MBBS, BMedSci, FRCPA of 3 February 2000?

(7) If no to (6), why not?

(8) If no to (6), what happened to them?

(9) If yes to (6), where are those exhibits held?

Answer

(1) WA Police form P78A ("Form to Accompany Post Mortem Exhibits"), was amongst information provided from the WA Coroner to Dr Cooke in year 2000 for opinion, which indicates these samples were taken at the post-mortem examination; the samples would have been taken by police to the Government Chemical Laboratories (now the Chemistry Centre).

(2) The P78A form is a WA Police form. PathWest does not have the authority to release this form. Authority to release rests with the WA State Coroner who will have a copy.

(3-5) PathWest is unable to confirm if toxicology testing was performed. These questions will need to be referred to the WA State Coroner and/or Chemistry Centre.

(6) Yes, the exhibits referred to in the letter by Dr Cooke to the State Coroner are retained in PathWest's (formerly State Health Laboratories) long-term storage.

(7-8) Not applicable.

(9) The exhibits are held in a secure, long-term storage facility in Welshpool.