

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

10 DEC 2013

Tuesday, 19 November 2013

599. Hon Robin Chapple to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services.

I refer to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Built Environment Branch (BEB), compliance and operating procedures, and ask:

- (a) under what legislation is it justified that the Perth Arena has been denied a direct brigade alarm;
- (b) in the interest of public safety, would it not be responsible for DFES to provide a direct brigade alarm for the Perth Arena;
- (c) if no to (b), why not;
- (d) why does DFES BEB's advice for compliance with their operating procedures, as part of the building licence submissions process, carry a disclaimer notice that they will not be held responsible or liable for the advice they give;
- (e) are any of the DFES BEB fire engineers professionally chartered engineers;
- (f) if yes to (e), how many;
- (g) if no to (e), why not;
- (h) what levies do DFES BEB charge for fire safety submissions;
- (i) have DFES BEB staff numbers decreased or increased since their role under clause 18B(1) of Building Regulations 2012, as amended, legislation diminished, whereby they are now only required to comment on matters relating to DFES operating procedures; and
- (j) if yes to (i), how much have they decreased or increased by?

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (a) – (c) The Perth Arena is connected by Direct Brigade Alarm (DBA). The DBA was connected in July of 2013. (DFES Legislation, Fire Brigades Act).
- (d) The purpose of disclaimers is to limit the Department and the State's liability in the event of loss or damage.
- (e) – (f) No.
- (g) There is no legislative requirement for engineers to be 'chartered engineers'.
- (h) There are no fees or charges applied to fire safety submissions.
- (i) – (j) DFES Built Environment Branch full time employee numbers have remained at 22 since 2012. There are presently two additional staff under contract.

