

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

Tuesday, 17 February 2015

2578. Hon Robin Chappie to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport.

I refer to the Redlion Bus and Coach Company in Esperance and an incident that took place at the Esperance Senior High School on the afternoon of 26 November 2014, and ask:

- (a) is it correct that this high school is a major pick up, drop off and transfer point for children being transport to and from the schools in the town site of Esperance, by this company under contract to the Department of Transport (DOT), and that most of the buses operating in this town site pass through this transfer point to collect and to deliver students;
- (b) is it correct that hundreds of school students of all ages pass through this transfer point, both in the morning and in the afternoon, every school day;
- (c) is it correct that on the afternoon of 26 November, 2014 the Occupational Health and Safety Manager (OHSM) of this company was driving a bus on a route known as "005" and was parked at this school directly in front of a person driving a bus on a route known as "007", whilst they were both waiting for the students that travel on these buses to arrive;
- (d) is it correct that the OHSM of this company alighted from the bus that they were driving and went to the front door of the bus directly behind him and proceeded to unleash an allegedly unprovoked verbal attack on that driver in a very agitated and angry manner;
- (e) is it correct that the OHSM allegedly threatened to have that driver's employment with the company terminated for "raising safety and training issues with other drivers of that company";
- (f) is it correct that there was a student sitting on the bus behind the driver being subjected to this angry and unprovoked outburst, who was subjected to witnessing the entire event, and that the driver who was subjected to this outburst had to deal with the student, after the outburst had ceased, who was very concerned about what had taken place;
- (g) is it correct that when the driver returned to the office after the run, the OHSM, in apparently another fit of rage and in the presence of three employees of the company, terminated the driver that was previously attacked for the reasons stated in (e);
- (h) is it correct that, in the presence of the same three employees of the company, the OHSM admitted to the angry outburst at the high school which took place in the presence of a student who was on the bus;
- (i) is it correct that the driver that was subject to this outburst wrote to the General Manager of the company concerning the behaviour of the OHSM, and that they also sent a copy of this letter to the owner of the company;
- (j) is this letter still on record at this company;
- (k) is it correct that on 27 November 2014 the driver who was subjected to this outburst, spoke to the Transfer Safety Coordinator for the DOT and reported this behaviour, along with other safety breaches and concerns that he had previously reported to that person on 28 October 2014;
- (l) what was the response of the Safety Transfer Coordinator to this concern, which was raised on 27 November 2014;
- (m) is the Minister aware of any driver of a company conducting themselves in an angry and agitated manner, in the presence of school students that are being transported under contract to the DOT;
- (n) if no to (m), why not; and



(o) if yes to (m), what actions did the Minister take to rectify the situation thus ensuring it could not take place again in the future?

Insofar as the Public Transport Authority (PTA) is concerned, the PTA has a contract with Redlion Bus and Coach to operate intra-town school bus services. This question has been answered in that context.

(a) Yes however it should be noted that Redlion Bus and Coach has a contract with the Public Transport Authority (PTA).

(b) Yes.

(c)-(j) The PTA is unaware of this incident.

(k) The PTA confirms that an ex-employee of Redlion Bus and Coach, Mr Maddock spoke with Transperth's Safety Coordinator on 28 November 2014 however this alleged incident was not raised.

(l) Not applicable

(m) No.

(n) Staff related issues are the responsibility of the contracted service provider, in this case Redlion Bus and Coach.

(o) Not applicable

