

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

Tuesday, 17 February 2015

2579. Hon Robin Chappie to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport.

I refer to the Redlion Bus and Coach Company in Esperance, and ask:

- (a) what is the function and purpose of the occupational health and safety management plan (OHSMP) of a company that holds a contract with the Department of Transport (DOT), and what is this system meant to achieve;
- (b) what are the duties and the responsibilities of the Occupational Health and Safety Manager (OHSM) of a company that operates under a contract that it holds with the DOT, and what is this person/position meant to achieve;
- (c) who is the OHSM of the company, referred to above, required by the DOT to be accountable to;
- (d) was it a mandatory requirement, before this company commenced operating under a contract with the DOT, to be in full compliance with all of the occupational health and safety (OHS) requirements of the DOT;
- (e) if no to (d), why not;
- (f) if yes to (d), how was compliance verified by the DOT;
- (g) is it a contractual requirement with the DOT for a company to have employed an OHSM at all times;
- (h) if no to (g), why not;
- (i) if yes to (h), has this company met these requirements at all times, and how has the DOT verified that this requirement has been met;
- (j) who is the present OHSM at this company, and how long has this person held this position;
- (k) is it the responsibility of the OHSM to see that the requirements of the OHSMP are met at all times;
- (l) if no to (k), why not;
- (m) is it correct that this company has not complied with the obligations and requirements of the OHSMP, and therefore the OHSM has failed to ensure full compliance with the OHSMP for a number of years;
- (n) if no to (m), what is correct concerning this matter;
- (o) if yes to (m), during what period of time(s) did the company fail to comply, and did it constitute any breaches and penalties;
- (p) has the company ever been in full compliance with its obligations under all contracts that it has held with the DOT in relation to the OHSMP, and having a person dedicated solely to the responsibilities of OHSM; and
- (q) if no to (p), why not, and what action has the Minister taken to rectify this?

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) A Safety Management Plan is a documented and systematic way to manage health and safety risks to ensure that work activities and the place of work are safe as well as the legislative requirements regarding safety are met.

(b) The Public Transport Authority (PTA) does not prescribe employment structures for any contracted bus service provider. Redlion Bus and Coach do not have a position identified as an Occupational Health and Safety Manager.

(c) See the answer provided at part (b).

(d) No.

(e) Redlion Bus and Coach have been operating bus services under a contract to the PTA for the past 11 years which is prior to the introduction of the current OSH requirements.

(f) Not applicable

(g)-(h) See the answer provided at part (b).

(i) Not applicable

(j)-(k) See the answer provided at part (b).

(l) The Operations Manager is responsible for safety policies, procedures and documentation within the Safety Management Plan and is accountable to the General Manager. Workshop activities are the responsibility of the Workshop Manager and Head Mechanic who are also accountable to the General Manager.

(m) No.

(n) Redlion Bus and Coach's Safety Management Plan has continued to evolve since the commencement of the PTA's OSH Audit process. The PTA has worked collaboratively with Redlion Bus and Coach to improve the standard of safety management.

(o) Areas of improvement have been identified by the PTA at every audit of Redlion Bus and Coach who have taken steps to address these issues. No penalties have been imposed.

(p) See the answer provided at part (b) noting that the Safety Management Plan of any company is continually evolving as improvements are identified and new processes are put into place.

(q) Not applicable

