

Question on Notice

No. 510

Asked on Tuesday, 23 March 2010

Mr Langbroek asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations (Mr C R Dick) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the work of the special prosecutions unit within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions including (a) what prosecutions the unit is charged with, (b) the total cost of running the unit, (c) how many staff the unit has and (d) a breakdown of the staff composition (for instance, the number of legal officers and senior counsel)?

ANSWER:

From 2006/07 to 2009/10, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has been granted specific funding for the purpose of conducting a number of special prosecutions, namely of Jayant Patel, David 'Gabe' Watson and Gordon Nuttall (including associated prosecutions for Harold Shand and Kenneth Talbot which will continue into 2010/11). This extra funding is to have been drawn upon for prosecution purposes, including employee related costs, expert medical reports, and witness expenses including travel and accommodation for the special prosecutions cases. The funding has been publicly reported in Annual Reports of the ODPP.

I am advised that a core of six staff has been assigned to these prosecutions, comprising of an Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions (Senior Counsel), Consultant Crown Prosecutor, Senior Crown Prosecutor, Senior Legal Officer, Senior Victim Liaison Officer and Legal Support Officer. During the progress of the special prosecutions cases, a number of additional staff from within the ODPP assumed responsibility for the conduct of aspects of each of the cases.

For each of the special prosecutions, teams were assigned, ordinarily comprised of a Consultant Crown Prosecutor; Principal Crown Prosecutor, Solicitor Advocate or Senior Legal Officer and Legal Support Officer. The composition of the team was dependant upon the stage of each prosecution.