

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 19**

**Asked on 4 February 2020**

**MS A LEAHY** asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON S HINCHLIFFE) –

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise what action the government has taken to ensure that the Code of Conduct for Mayors and Councillors does not impinge on their freedom of speech given the commencement of the Human Rights Act?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Warrego for the question.

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to increase public confidence in Local Government by requiring a Councillor to treat people in a reasonable, just, respectful and non-discriminatory way and ensure their conduct does not reflect adversely on the reputation of the Council.

The Code of Conduct still allows a Councillor to engage with other Councillors and their constituents on matters of public interest, provided they do so in an appropriate way for an elected representative.

Following the introduction of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, the Department has reviewed the Code of Conduct to ensure that any limits the Code may have on the ability of Councillors to engage in matters of public interest are justified and proportionate.