

GIPAA

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Just so that there is no misunderstanding, this was debated in Parliament, and the legislation now makes it possible for Government agencies to accept electronic lodgement but does not require it. The Opposition did propose making it mandatory. We were just interested, I guess, in the policy considerations underpinning the rejection of that proposal that it be made mandatory, particularly given the 2017-18 report on the operation of the GIPAA by the Information Commissioner.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: If it is a policy matter, shouldn't you have asked the Attorney General?

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I am just asking for the department's view.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: The Attorney's not here, that is why we are asking—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: He was here.

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR: And you kept asking the department questions. You have to work out which ones you are going to ask for whom?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The Government has woken up. Is that a point of order?

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Absolutely.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I do not think it is a point of order, so I will allow Mr Searle to have his question answered.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am happy to take that on notice. From my discussion with my colleague Rita Peci, and also with Elizabeth Tydd, a lot of the impediment was in finding a tractable information and communications technology platform to do this. We now have one. I will talk to my colleague Glenn King in customer service and see what information we can provide the Committee from an official's perspective about what more we could do to facilitate the uptake of digital lodgement on GIPAA requests.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Not all NSW Government agencies currently have the ability to accept electronic applications, so it is appropriate that a discretion exist at this time.