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Auditor General finds decision by former Minister reasonable

The Auditor General Colin Murphy tabled a report in Parliament today, which found a decision by the former Minister for Health not to provide Parliament with the business case for the Quadriplegic Centre was reasonable and appropriate.

Mr Murphy said he was satisfied that the requested information had the potential to reveal Cabinet deliberations and decisions and should remain confidential.

'The Department of Health advised the Minister that the business case should not be provided as it was Cabinet-in-confidence,' he said.

'In developing its advice to the Minister, the Department of Health appropriately considered expert advice from the Departments of Treasury and Premier and Cabinet and looked at previous similar opinions from my Office.

'I was pleased to note that in responding to the request, the Minister said consideration would be given to providing the information at a later date.

'It is important the release of this information is considered, when appropriate, to ensure ongoing transparency of the Quadriplegic Centre project.'

Under legislation, the Auditor General on receipt of a notification is required to express an opinion as to whether it is reasonable and appropriate for a Minister not to provide information to Parliament.

The Auditor General's report *Opinion on Ministerial Notification* (Report 9 – June 2017) is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at www.audit.wa.gov.au.

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