

Minister for Education  
Minister for Disability Services  
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence  
Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council

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13 February 2025

Ms Jen Butler MP  
Labor Member for Lyons  
Email C/O Clerk of Assembly: [laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Butler 

Thank you for your Constituent Question on Tuesday, 26 November 2024, asked as follows:

*A group of constituents from St Helens would like to know the status of a Department of Education investigation into alleged misappropriation of funds and equipment at the St Helens District High School.*

*It is our understanding the Department of Education investigation began in 2020 and is yet to be resolved some four years later. Could the Minister update the House on where the current investigation stands?*

I am pleased to provide the following response:

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 26 November 2024 regarding an investigation into alleged misappropriation of resources at St Helens District High School.

An Employment Direction No. 5 (ED5) investigation commenced in August 2020, into allegations raised against a then Department of Education, Children and Young People (the Department) employee at St Helens District High School, including the misappropriation of funds.

The matter was complex, involving multiple avenues of investigation and was referred to Tasmania Police as part of standard reporting requirements.

Tasmania Police were provided with all available evidence. Any action taken by Tasmania Police is within their decision-making responsibilities, including consideration of criminal code burden of proof requirements, which may vary to ED5 burden of proof requirements.

The ED5 investigation and related processes were finalised in December 2021. The Department is not able to comment on specifics due to the restrictions of the Personal Information and Privacy Act.

I am advised that the individual in question is no longer an employee of the Department, and that Tasmania Police may be able to provide further information on this specific matter.

Thank you for raising this question on behalf of your constituents, I appreciate that there is interest within the community regarding the outcomes of the matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Palmer', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Hon Jo Palmer MLC  
**Minister for Education**