The Leader of Government Business, Dr Chris Burns has called on the Leader of the Opposition to come clean on what he knows about the actions of the Member for Katherine Willem Westra Van Holthe and allegations he ripped off a Katherine businessman in a car deal.

“Following last week sittings of Parliament – a number of allegations were raised about the conduct and dealings of the Member for Katherine who is Terry Mills’ would-be treasurer.

“These allegations made by a Katherine small business owner to both Government and police are serious and raise very genuine questions about the moral character and conduct of Mr Willem Westra Van Holthe.”

Whilst the member for Katherine gave a personal explanation in parliament last week, it only raised more questions than it answers; in particular did the Member for Katherine use his position as a police officer to his own financial advantage?

“If Willem Westra Van Holthe used his position as a police officer for his own personal gain, he can’t be trusted as the Shadow Treasurer and Terry Mills must stand him down immediately.

“Terry Mills ducked the issue last week but now the time has come for Terry to either stand Mr Van Holthe down as would-be treasurer or explain why he chooses to do nothing.”

Mr Burns said Terry Mills must come out today and tell the community:

1. What he knows about the Member for Katherine’s actions relating to allegations he swindled a Katherine business owner over the sale of a car;
2. Whether he believes that kind of conduct is befitting of someone he wants to put in charge of the Territory’s economy;
3. What action he plans to take to discipline Mr Van Holthe.

“Terry Mills has got a reputation for going to ground when things get tough. Whether it’s holing himself up in a Darwin restaurant to avoid journalists or going AWOL when his hand-picked spokesperson for Treasury is accused of very serious allegations,” Mr Burns said.

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