Jodeen Carney
Shadow Attorney-General,
Shadow Minister for Justice, and Women's Policy

Justice budget blows out by $8.5 million: on what, how and when?

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The Shadow Minister for Justice, Jodeen Carney, wants Government to explain why there has been a blow out of $8.5m in the Justice Budget.

Ms. Carney said in the budget for the 2003-04 financial year was $104.940m. It is estimated that by 30th June $113.363m will be spent. (Budget Paper # 3, p113).

“This is a blow out of nearly $8.5m, and there is no explanation as to where it went, what it was spent on or why it was spent”, Ms. Carney said.

“What makes it worse is the fact that it was estimated in the mid-year financial report in February that $106.034m would be spent. So, it's blown out by over $7m since then, a few months!”

“The blow out is not as bad as what occurred in the Health Department, but it's still an amazing figure.

“The Justice Minister didn't bother explaining the blow out when he spoke about the Budget in Parliament today, so obviously he doesn't want to talk about it and hopes that no one will notice.

“This blow out will be pursued tomorrow (Wednesday) at the Estimates Committee hearing.”

Ends.