

SENATOR MICHELLE BENSON
SENATE DISTRICT 31
Deputy Majority Leader
Chair, Health & Human Services Finance & Policy



Senate

State of Minnesota

August 19, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Ms. Carolyn Ham
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Office of General Counsel
444 Lafayette Rd
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Ham:

During the August 13th joint Senate Health and Human Services, and Human Services Reform Committee hearing, I as chair, stated that we would be following up with requested testifiers to seek answers to questions we believe were not sufficiently answered in our hearing. We ask that you please respond to each question, in writing, no later than close of business on Friday, August 23rd.

1. When were you officially placed on leave?
2. When were you informed that you were being placed on leave?
3. When were you informed that an investigation had begun?
4. When did you begin work at the General Counsel's Office?
5. When were you informed that you would be temporarily reassigned to the General Counsel's Office?
6. Did you request the reassignment?
7. Do you intend to return to the Office of the Inspector General at the conclusion of the investigation?
8. How many FTE investigators were assigned exclusively to investigating claims as of January 1, 2019 in the Office of Inspector General?
9. How many FTE investigators were assigned to licensing and background check work as of January 1, 2019 in the Office of Inspector General?
10. How many FTE investigators were assigned exclusively to investigating claims as of March 1, 2019 in the Office of Inspector General?
11. How many FTE investigators were assigned to licensing and background check work as of March 1, 2019 in the Office of Inspector General?

12. It has come to my attention that open investigator FTEs in the Office of Inspector General were being filled with licensing staff, is this true? And if so, why?
13. During your tenure in the Office of Inspector General, had any investigators been reassigned from conducting investigations? If so why and how many?
14. Was there a continuous improvement program in place as of January 1, 2019? And was there one in place as of March 1, 2019?
15. I understand Public Financial Management, Inc. (PFM) was hired to review concerns from CCAP investigators; why was an outside firm hired?

If any answer to the previous questions contains information you don't believe you can legally provide to us, we ask that that information be sent to the Office of the Legislative Auditor for review of confidentiality, and that you include a citation of what specific statute or rule you believe prevents you from sharing that information in your response to us.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Benson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Michelle Benson