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Police hunting missing RAH files

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Article from: **The Advertiser**

RUSSELL EMMERSON, STATE POLITICAL REPORTER
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POLICE and the Health Department are investigating the loss of internal files relating to the city's proposed new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Health Minister John Hill admitted in Parliament today that an SA Health employee had lost a USB flash drive containing files relating to the building of the \$1.7 billion hospital.

The files are understood to include project drafts about the need for single rooms and draft plans for a advertising campaign to inform taxpayers of the benefits of the design.

"The advice to the Treasurer and me is that this event is not expected to have any impact on the work going on at the moment in preparation for the construction of the hospital," Mr Hill said.

He said departmental officers were told of the loss on June 3, the day after the files were lost, but he was told nine days later on June 12 - too late, according to opposition health spokeswoman Vickie Chapman.

"The Treasurer and Minister for Health weren't notified of this for nine days, which in itself is scandalous," she said.

"They then failed to tell the Parliament or the public for another six days which is unacceptable.

"The Treasurer needs to ensure appropriate action is taken against the person responsible for the long delay between the incident and him being informed."

Treasurer Kevin Foley said the delay was "of serious concern".

"I've written to the Crown Solicitor expressing that very point and asking him to advise what happened

and whether any changes need to be made to the process," he said.

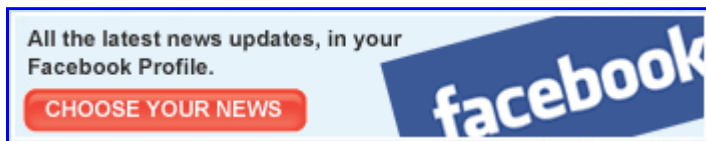
"I'm very concerned that such a period of time in proper notification of Ministers has occurred."

The matter has been reported to SA Police and the Crown Solicitor's office, and the probity advisers for the hospital project have also been told.

The State Government called for expressions of interest to build the hospital last week.

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