

BROADSPECTRUM — ESCAPEE — LAURIE DODD

810. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Given the nature of escapee Laurie Dodd's violent behaviour, why will the minister not accept responsibility for —

- (a) his department failing to treat Laurie Dodd as a high-risk offender;
- (b) his processes not being adequate to ensure that the special operations group was in place to supervise Laurie Dodd at Royal Perth Hospital; and
- (c) his mismanagement ultimately leading to Laurie Dodd's escape?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (a)–(c) Just dealing with the last one—we have explained this to the member before, and I am surprised that he does not realise this, given that he is a former minister—it is not up to ministers to involve themselves in operational matters; it is a breach of the Public Sector Commission Act—remember that? Not that he will ever become a minister anytime, but he should remember that.

In taking responsibility and dealing with those issues, the issue the member raised is a very, very good one and goes to a failing at the Department of Corrective Services in its security risk assessment of prisoners. I will take the member through exactly where that failing occurred. I have done this publicly, and I will do it again now in this house. When a prisoner is arrested, the behaviour of that prisoner should be passed on to the courts and the court risk assessment that is done at the time. The court risk assessment then provides that information for the overall prisoner assessment through the operations department in corrections, and then that information is passed on to the transportation organisation—in this case, Broadspectrum.

In August 2013, the member's government downgraded Dodd's high security status. It downgraded it, and it remained downgraded at normal status until he was released from prison in November 2018. When that assessment was being done by operations, it went back to the actual system that manages prisons within the department of corrective services and his status remained the same. That is unacceptable. The situation at the time of his arrest, or any prisoner's arrest, information on their behaviour such as whether it is violent, whether they are under the influence of drugs and whether they are misbehaving should flow via intelligence through to operations and their classification should be determined, and then it should be forwarded on to the transportation company. That was not done, and that goes to the heart of the member for Churchlands' question.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: That is what I have directed the department to fix—another legacy of the opposition's term in government.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, you are not a minister anymore!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: When we talk about the previous government's legacy and escapes, the opposition likes to dish out escapes on this government. Shall we just have a look at three years of the opposition's term in government? Let us have a look at the number of escapes. In 2013, there were 13 escapes.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the first time; I warned you twice.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: In 2013, 13 escapes; in 2014, 14 escapes; in 2015, 10 escapes. That is 37 escapes in three years. What did the current Leader of the Opposition say at the time as then Minister for Police? What did she say after the violent Geraldton escape when prisoners escaped from a van? She told the ABC news on 23 January 2014 —

It's always happened. It will continue to happen.

When there was a further escape from Karnet Prison Farm—the Karnet Armadale escape—her response then was —

In context, we would prefer there were no escapes but these things are going to happen when human beings are involved in managing other human beings.

That is what the Leader of the Opposition told *The Examiner* on 24 July 2014. Members opposite should not come in here and lecture me about this incident. I have been completely up-front with them on how it happened and how we are going to fix it.