

FREMANTLE POLICE STATION — STAFF

364. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to my question without notice 271 of last week that sought information about the government's response to widespread reports of the escalating incidence of antisocial behaviour and crime in inner Fremantle and the welcome news published in the *Community News* last week that a special temporary allocation of 20 officers will be —

... part of a targeted operation to focus on retail theft which falls into the category of high volume, low level criminality ...

... planned due to the effects of losing a CBD-focused team during previous agency reform ...

- (1) Why did the minister not provide this information to Parliament when it was provided to the press?
- (2) Is the government committed to resourcing the WA Police Force to enable this operation to continue as long as necessary?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

- (1) As advised in the answer provided last week, district superintendents are responsible for deploying their allocated resources. It is appropriate for senior police to comment on specific operations. I welcome the Western Australia Police Force's active response to issues in the Fremantle CBD.
- (2) The operation will continue as long as the district superintendent and the Commissioner of Police believe it is necessary.