

CRIME STATISTICS — SEPTEMBER — OPERATION SWEEP

820. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I refer to what one senior police officer has called “Operation Sweep on Steroids”.

- (1) How does just logging every police contact, arrest, field report, summons or random breath test under a new label reduce crime?
- (2) Are all vehicles that pass through an automatic numberplate recognition camera included as a police contact for the purposes of Operation Sweep statistics?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Midland for giving me an opportunity to talk about Operation Sweep. As it happens, repositioning the effort of over 1 000 police officers across metropolitan Perth to target known crime hotspots and to target those areas of crime that are causing concern in the community is effective. So far to date, after seven weeks of operation, there have been 3 797 arrests, 3 123 summonses issued, 97 juvenile justice referrals issued, 20 turning point referrals and 9 419 total charges preferred. That is 12 661 briefcase charges that have resulted out of this effort, compared with 11 578 at the same time last year. What this has resulted in, overall, is a five per cent reduction —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My second question was quite specific. It asked about automatic numberplate recognition and whether they are counted in the contacts for Operation Sweep. It appears that the minister is just giving a general statement about Operation Sweep rather than answering my question.

The SPEAKER: I think the minister has given a general introduction. Can she now please address that specific question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Operation Sweep has resulted in the September 2015 statistics now showing a five per cent reduction in overall reported crime as compared with August 2015—so police are getting the results and it is coming down.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: It’s about 15 per cent up on last year.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Operation Sweep has not yet finished. In respect to what has been recorded in overall reported crime, I put to the member for Midland that there have been 3 797 arrests and 9 419 total charges. If those figures included every single plate recognition pull over by police, the figures would be significantly higher. I will endeavour to find out whether police are including those statistics in the figures that I have just quoted, but according to the information that I have been briefed on, those are not included in the figures I have just provided to Parliament.