

POLICE — REDUNDANCIES

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

- (1) Why has the minister not publicised her latest round of senior police redundancies?
- (2) Why are these redundancies being offered?
- (3) Approximately how many senior police will be leaving in this round, prior to 30 June this year?
- (4) What is the approximate cost of the redundancies?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Midland for the question.

- (1)–(4) I have been very forthright in this place in talking about the WA Police Frontline 2020 program and the reform agenda we are running through Police. That reform agenda has identified some opportunities to flatten the structure in Police. “Flattening the structure” means looking at the areas of excess officers in the commissioned ranks, such as inspectors, superintendents and commander positions. They are positions where we are looking for opportunities to create gaps, if you like, to allow new people to move up through the ranks. The Frontline 2020 program also identified that we have surplus mid-level management numbers in WA Police. WA Police has come to me and asked whether it can self-fund, from within its own resources, some voluntary redundancies and voluntary severances, and a small number of opportunities have been offered to WA Police officers. We have not settled on a final number as yet because we want to see what kind of response we get from the commissioned officers who may be eligible to assist in flattening our structure. So that members understand why this is important, taking out an officer at a commissioned rank of inspector or above gives us the opportunity to replace that officer with two junior constables or two new recruits. If we can get two troops on the ground, out serving the community —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I asked some very specific questions such as approximately how many officers and at approximately what cost. I do not appear to be getting an answer to those quite simple questions; rather, I am getting some prepared diatribe.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I understood the minister to say that things were not exactly settled yet. Minister, can you address those further?

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am very pleased that Mr Speaker is listening to my response; the member for Midland seems to have a problem listening to my responses.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: The problem is with you not telling the house anything of use!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will go back a couple of sentences and speak slowly so the member for Midland can understand. I said that we are looking at opportunities to flatten our structure; we have not settled on a total number and it will be small. It will be fewer than 50. We are looking for some opportunities to look to commissioned officers who are surplus to requirements, to, through a voluntary severance scheme —

Ms M.M. Quirk: How are you going with detective vacancies?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: — free up those positions so that we can replace them with more officers on the front line. Maybe the member for Girrawheen might get a question one day, and she can ask that question about detectives, or maybe the member for Midland can ask it.