

ROAD SAFETY COMMISSIONER — KIM PAPALIA

261. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Road Safety:

I refer to former police officer, former director of the Corruption and Crime Commission and former Road Safety Commissioner, Kim Papalia, a man who has demonstrated nothing other than the highest commitment to integrity and due process. What course of events and what actions did the minister or any other member of the McGowan government pursue that forced Kim Papalia to take an injunction out against the release of documents —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Minister, what course of events and what actions did the minister or any other member of the McGowan government pursue that forced Kim Papalia to take an injunction out against the release of documents for the minister to use for the Premier's political witch-hunt?

Point of Order

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I refer to standing order 77(1) and (2). There is an imputation that the person being asked about was forced out. That is contrary to the standing orders.

The SPEAKER: No—there is no issue there, member. It is a standing order but it is not relevant in this case.

Ms M.M. Quirk: It never is!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Do I need to repeat my question?

The SPEAKER: No. I want to hear what the member for Girrawheen just had to say.

Withdrawal of Remark

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I withdraw it, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Do I need to repeat the question?

The SPEAKER: No.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

As I have advised the house, I have the utmost respect for Mr Kim Papalia. I had anticipated that he would continue in the role of Road Safety Commissioner. The first I heard that he thought he would not be continuing in that role was via an interview on radio 6PR with Gareth Parker. I was quite shocked when I heard that he thought his position would be up on 30 June. The understanding that both the Premier and I had—he and I clarified it in the days following that—was that he would continue in the role of Road Safety Commissioner, that there would continue to be a Road Safety Commission and that back-office operations would occur out of Police. I think that some of its payroll and so forth is currently handled out of the Department of Training and Workforce Development. I did not see this as being a big change. As far as the machinery-of-government changes, I saw this as being a very minor one and I thought that Mr Papalia would continue in that role. I would have been more than happy for him to do so. I think I made that very clear the next day or the day after he had made those comments on 6PR. I understand my office provided him with a copy of that transcript. I believe that he was very positive about what I had to say about him on radio with Gareth Parker.

I have had nothing to do with whatever these questions are from the commission of inquiry—the Langoulant inquiry. I was unaware that the Langoulant inquiry had even approached him. He and the Road Safety Commission did not advise me of the fact that he had even had any requests for information. I think that perhaps in the normal course of events that would have been a prudent thing for him to have done, but he did not do that. It was only at the very end of last week that I even heard about this as an issue. There is nothing that I have done that would cause him to take an injunction out; it is quite the contrary. When I learnt, I think it was late last Friday, that he had even sought advice or got advice or whatever, that came out of left field for me.