

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS — RELEASE FROM PRISON

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

I refer to the Minister for Corrective Services' comments yesterday regarding GPS-monitored parolees that —
... if they breach their conditions—they only have to look the wrong way, at the moment—there will be ... consequences for such actions.

Is it not true that the only consequence was that TJD was released?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Midland for this question on an issue that has a high level of community interest. With respect to the breach by this offender, police have dealt with this person appropriate to the Bail Act, as they are required to do by law. I am confident that they have acted appropriately in this circumstance with TJD. Let us take it back a step. The only reason police officers are dealing with this person is that he has been released by the courts. If I was sitting in that chair, I might have made a different decision and then my police officers —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As I said, if I was in the seat making that decision —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: If I was in that seat making that decision, I would have said, "I don't want this guy living next to me; I don't want him living next to my daughters."

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I would have said, "I don't want him living next to my sisters or my nieces."

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I would have made that decision and said that if it is not good enough for me to have that guy living next door to me, it is not good enough for our community. The government has said repeatedly that it disagrees with this decision. We do not agree with this decision. The fact remains that because this person has been released, he has become a problem for our community and our police officers. We will not hear people on this side of the house bagging police officers.

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

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

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, you might break all records if you carry on the way you are.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Plenty of members over there are prepared to represent the lawyers in the courts, but no-one out there is willing to stand up for police officers. I stand up for police officers. They have a difficult job managing this person and the fact remains that if there had been a better decision by the court —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: If there had been a better decision by the court—a decision consistent with community expectations—this person would not have been released. What is the government doing about this? We have announced —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The government has announced an immediate review of the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In contrast to members opposite, who bag police officers and criticise the actions of our police officers, we are taking action. We will review the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act so that we can compel the courts to make decisions that are consistent with community expectations.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time. This is drowning out the minister.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In response to the member for Midland's question, the review of the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act will look at precisely these issues to ensure that decisions made by the courts can be compelled to be made consistent with community expectations. In addition to that, we can better manage these offenders and community safety in the context of a review of the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act and ensure that our police officers do not have to deal with people whom they have already locked up again and again. That is their frustration. They do a great job and they are the best people to do the job we require of them in managing this person whom the courts have deemed fit to release.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

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