

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE — BUDGET

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

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister categorically deny that in recent weeks regional WA Police have been directed to cut \$2 million from their budgets? If so, how does that provide extra shifts?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

The member for Midland was not listening. I said that the shifts had changed, so that the shifts are responding to the increase in demand for policing services.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My question is, simply: is the minister denying a cut of \$2 million that needs to be achieved by 30 June or not?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It has come to my attention that whenever the member for Midland asks a question, she takes a point of order on the supplementary, almost without exception.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I want a short answer, addressing the question, through the Chair.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will give a short, sharp answer to the member's question. Several weeks ago, when the union advised me of this issue, I put the question to the police executive, and it advised me that there has been no directive and there is no cut to regional policing. That is the advice the police have given me. I have not directed them to make any kind of cut or savings, and the budget is bigger. Police have more money this year than last year.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time. That concludes question time.