

POLICE — OFFENCES AGAINST PEOPLE — SANCTION RATES

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

I have a supplementary question. I note that my question was about offences against the person. Does a falling sanction rate, which is now less than half of all crimes against the person, not mean that more offenders are getting off scot-free under the minister's watch in percentage terms, never mind any population increase?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

The answer to that is not necessarily.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member thinks it is funny. I do not think crimes against people are very funny. Most people on this side of the house treat crimes against people as very serious.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, let the minister answer. Member for Cannington, I do not want to hear from you on this.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We believe that offences against people are particularly serious. For new members to this house who may not understand the sanction rate, it is the rate of resolution of crimes that have been reported offences. The sanction rate captures a wide range of ways that offences are finalised, which basically means that it is a percentage of the successful convictions against the offences that are recorded.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: That is wrong. It is not convictions.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I had not finished my response, member for Midland.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: You're telling fibs.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Why does the member not let me finish a sentence?

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs M.H. Roberts: You don't know what you're talking about.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Speaker, I would really love to finish my sentence.

The SPEAKER: Carry on, minister.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It also covers offences that are closed because there is unlikely to be a successful conviction—offences that are finalised and written off.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: I haven't even asked you this. You're talking rot. Why don't you answer what you're asked?

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: A range of work needs to be done on the way in which police report the management of offences. We are interrogating that as part of our reform program.