

POLICE BUDGET — FRONT-LINE SERVICES

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

I refer to today's revelations that millions of dollars will still be cut from the police budget and that the minister has stated that her government will not make cuts to front-line policing.

- (1) Exactly how does the minister define front-line policing?
- (2) Where does she absolutely guarantee that cuts will not be made?
- (3) Is the full cost of the police industrial agreement and the full cost of Government Regional Officers' Housing provided for in the current police budget or will those funds have to come from internal cuts to the police budget?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) I was very pleased to announce today that, subject to a decision of executive government, the WA Police budget today is more than \$26 million better off. The FTE cap on police has been lifted, which means that we are well on track to meet our election commitment —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: What is the size of the cut now?

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs M.H. Roberts: If they are \$26 million better off, what's the size of the current cut?

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I can guarantee the house, as I have guaranteed this house on numerous occasions since I have become minister, that there will be no cut to front-line services—that front-line police servicing will not be affected by any efficiency dividend of this government.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: How do you define them? That's the question.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Indeed, the government has backed me up on that undertaking that I have given to the community and to this house by ensuring that the FTE cap on police has been lifted, and to help resource police in attaining our election commitment of 2008, the police budget today is more than \$26 million better off.

- (3) To answer the member's question about whether GROH and the EBA will be met as part of that \$26 million, yes, it will.