

POLICE — VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

**263. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

- (1) Will all police officers taking up voluntary redundancy be replaced?
- (2) Can the Minister for Police guarantee that allowing police officers to take up redundancies will not result in fewer police on the beat?
- (3) What is the current approximate cost of training a police officer?
- (4) What is the rationale behind paying approximately a full year's salary to an existing officer to do nothing, and then paying wages to train another officer to take their place?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(4) The Commissioner of Police advises me that there are police officers who are interested in taking up the very generous voluntary redundancy package. The commissioner has also said that he can manage the voluntary redundancy program consistent with this government's growth program. We still have 100 officers to recruit for our 500 program, and we will recruit and train them by June 2014. Then we have our 550 growth program, consistent with the last election campaign, and the commissioner is aware that he needs to meet those targets as well. The government is still committed, with our funding and with our \$67 million capital works program, to ensure that we can maintain our growth program in the context of some voluntary redundancies that will be made available to police officers, should they choose to take them up.