

HOME BURGLARIES — POLICE RESPONSE

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

I have a supplementary question. Is it not the case, with a sanction rate of just 8.5 per cent in the metropolitan area, down from 17 per cent in 2008, that over nine out of 10 burglars are not being caught or punished at all by the government?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

As I said, I do not have the annual report with me to verify the information provided by the member for Midland. If I take the member for Midland's figures as stated, I say again that we acknowledge there needs to be an improvement in this space. One of the problems we have is that it is very demoralising for police officers when they have rounded up offenders and taken them to court and they are not given a sentence.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Our plan is for more police officers, more detectives and stronger penalties. When that is taken all together as a strategy, it has to go some way to driving down those home burglary figures in Western Australia. That is what the government is on about over here. I do not know what members opposite are on about over there.