

DIGNITARY PROTECTION UNIT — SCARBOROUGH BEACH — PROTESTER

159. Hon JIM CHOWN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to an incident on Sunday, 18 March 2018, that occurred at the Scarborough beachfront when Premier McGowan was in attendance to open a new redevelopment, as was his security detail. A lone, peaceful protester stood holding a banner that read “Save Moora College”, in quiet protest, as is her democratic right. She was approached by a woman from the Premier’s security detail and told, “You can’t stand here, it’s not your time to protest.” The lone protester declined to move on, so the security personnel stood directly in front of the banner to intentionally obscure the message. The incident was also reported in *The Countryman* published on Thursday, 22 March 2018.

- (1) Who instructed the Premier’s security to approach the protester in this manner?
- (2) Is it usual for the government’s security detail to be utilised in such a way to protect the government’s reputation?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The WA Police Force dignitary protection unit was in attendance at the Scarborough foreshore on Sunday, 18 March 2018, to provide a security detail to Premier Mark McGowan, MLA. A lone-person protester was observed at the opening. It was the decision of the attending DPU personnel to approach and speak with this person. WA police will not comment on operational procedures surrounding the security of DPU clients.