

POLICE BUDGET — FRONT-LINE SERVICES

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

I refer the Minister for Police to evidence given by the Commissioner of Police, Karl O'Callaghan, to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee last week that he had forwarded the minister a list of areas in which the \$28 million cut to the police budget could be made.

- (1) What are the items on that list?
- (2) How will the minister assure herself that these cuts will not impact on front-line services?
- (3) Is delaying recruitment on that list?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. I again make it abundantly clear to members in this house, which I have made abundantly clear in every conversation I have had regarding the state government's efficiency dividend, that front-line services for police will not be affected by any efficiency measure of this government. The items that are up for discussion between the commissioner and me as to the ways that the police will achieve the efficiency measures of government will be made available through the midyear review process. The commissioner and I have an agreement that front-line services will not be affected by any efficiency measure. Members in this house might recall that only three short weeks ago I made an announcement that \$26 million of funding had been returned to the police budget. Indeed, the police budget has been increased by \$240 million over the course of this government. The police budget is now \$1.177 billion. The police are very well resourced to do their job and no efficiency measure of this government will have an impact on service delivery.