

POLICE — ARMADALE — 24/7 PUBLIC ACCESS STATION

13. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Police:

In light of the fact that, outside the Perth CBD, Armadale has the highest crime numbers for assault, home burglary and car theft —

- (1) Can the minister please explain why the Armadale area does not have a 24/7 public access police station?
- (2) Why is the south east metropolitan police district, in which Armadale is located, the only metropolitan policing district to have only one 24/7 public access police station, although all other metropolitan policing districts have two?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Armadale for the question. He has raised the question of a public access 24-hour police station in Armadale a number of times in this place. I will repeat the previous answers that I have given.

- (1)–(2) A 24-hour police station provides an opportunity for people to drop into the police station and report, or whatever it might be they choose to do. Looking at who those people are, we often find that they are people reporting for bail conditions or curfew requirements —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: However, in answer to the member's question, I have recently visited Armadale Police Station and spoken to the teams that are working there. We would like to throw some more resources into the Armadale policing teams. That was raised in that meeting and the commissioner is going to work on that. A 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week police station would effectively tie up resources in someone being behind a counter to answer walk-ins who might come in through the front door during the evening. We then also need to have a customer service officer there throughout the evening. The numbers do not always add up. When I speak to people in Armadale, I ask them whether they would rather have a couple of officers protecting a police station —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I have been out to community forums in Armadale a number of times and I have met with groups there who are concerned about crime. I have met with the shire and I have visited the police station with the commissioner. The feedback that we have had from people in that community when faced with the question whether they would rather have their money put behind manning a desk —

Dr A.D. Buti: That's a lie!

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Just withdraw that, please.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I withdraw that, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I ask whether they would rather have people sitting behind a desk or those officers in a vehicle responding to calls from the community. They always want the officers out in cars and available to them. That is the model we are looking at. The south east metro district requiring two 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week police stations is being reviewed as part of the reform 2020 model.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: If members had been paying attention over the summer break, we said that there would be a review of the model. Out of that review, which included members from the local policing teams and response teams, we are enacting changes to ensure that the model will be effective in driving down crime and improving community safety.