

POLICE — CRIME RATES

1052. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Why should the public not expect success in the police portfolio to deliver faster response times and lower crime rates —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Just hold it a minute. I do not know what is going on. People are getting presents; you are talking. The member for Midland is trying to ask a question. Start again, please, member for Midland.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Hold it a minute. Member for Collie–Preston!

Point of Order

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am very concerned about my health. When the Premier passes a box across the chamber, I ask whether it has been scanned. Knowing the relationship between the Premier and the Leader of the National Party, it could go off at any time!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much for that titbit, member for Collie–Preston. Now we will hear from the member for Midland again.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: On that point of order, It would seem that the Premier’s behaviour was out of order.

The SPEAKER: Let us go.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police.

- (1) Why should the public not expect success in the police portfolio to deliver faster response times and lower crime rates?
- (2) Given that response times have now blown out by so much that the goalposts have had to be moved for all priority categories, and even then the target response times cannot be met, and given that she has admitted that four months of double-digit crime increases are completely unprecedented, has she not, after three years in the portfolio, achieved an epic fail?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

(1)–(2) When we look at the statistics and —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: I want to hear the answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is a serious question and I think it deserves a serious answer. As Minister for Police in this state, I take crime trends, the police response and questions to do with policing very seriously indeed. When we look at the crime rates in Western Australia, over the seven years since we have been in government—over a seven-year period —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My question relates only to this minister’s three years in the portfolio and her success or failure.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Over the seven years the crime rates —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Over the seven years since 2008 that we have been in government, the crime rates have been trending down in almost all areas, with the exception of domestic violence incidents, which we have canvassed consistently in this place. We have had increases over the past few months —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 26 November 2015]

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Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Mick Murray; Speaker; Mrs Liza Harvey

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We have had increases in certain areas of crime over the past four months compared with last years' figures, but four months is not a trend; we look at the annual trends. My expectation, and what the community should and can expect, is that crime rates will continue to trend downwards with the resourcing we have given to police, with the effective measures that police are taking around their methamphetamine enforcement plan, with the actions that I am taking with Minister Helen Morton in the other place around looking at demand drivers for methamphetamine addiction, and with the changes to the Frontline 2020 operating model, which has been in place for only 12 months, so it has not had sufficient time to be bedded down and to be worked through and improved. There has been a lot of change. I put to this house and the community that, yes, I absolutely expect to see crime rates continuing to trend downwards. That is what the commissioner is tasked with doing, and he takes his role very seriously indeed. We will continue to work with the Ombudsman's office on our key performance indicators and make sure that they are appropriate to the modern policing environment within which we work. But I think it is really important for people to get this into context: four months does not constitute a trend. We have a seven-year downward trend, and I expect, and I have asked the commissioner to ensure, that that downward trend continues.