

POLICE STAFF TO POPULATION RATIO

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

I again refer to table CA.5 of the “Report on Government Services 2015”, which I have already provided to the minister.

- (1) In 2008–09, was the police staff to population ratio 338 staff per 100 000 people?
- (2) Is the police staff to population ratio now only 308 staff per 100 000 people?
- (3) Does this mean that there are now far fewer police per person than there were when the Liberal Party came into office; and, if not, why not?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) She is back for more punishment. The member for Midland cannot stand the fact that we have committed to 550 additional police and police auxiliary officers and we are achieving it. She cannot bear it. She also cannot stand that our police officers are more effective than ever because they are examining and re-examining the way that they do business. We have already recruited a large number of our detectives.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have not asked a general question. My question is whether there are now fewer police per population than there were in 2008. It is a rather simple question and perhaps the minister could just answer that, rather than give a rehearsed diatribe.

The SPEAKER: You have made your point. That was a specific question, minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is so typical of the Labor Party; all it wants is numbers, numbers, numbers.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Do members know what we want over here? We want effectiveness.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro and member for West Swan, I do not want to hear you when I am on my feet.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We on this side of the house are about effective policing. Members opposite want bums on seats. We are delivering police officers into our community at a faster rate than they have ever been delivered before. The important question here is: what are we achieving? We have achieved a 7.6 per cent reduction in total offences against the person from when the Labor Party was in government. We have achieved a 33 per cent reduction in offences against property from when the Labor Party was in government.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I understand, Mr Speaker, that following my earlier point of order you asked the minister to answer the question that I asked, rather than give her usual prepared diatribe. I believe she is in contempt of your ruling.

The SPEAKER: Minister, the question was whether there are fewer police per 100 000 people, so can you just address that.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am talking about the effectiveness of police. When we look at the offence rate per 100 000 people, which feeds directly into the effectiveness of our policing effort, we see that in 2007–08 there were 653 non-domestic assault offences per 100 000 people in 2004 and that is down to 436 offences per 100 000 people. That is a significant reduction. In 2007–08, there were 1 209 dwelling burglary offences per 100 000 people. How were we in 2013–14? There were 1 009 offences per 100 000 people. The crime rate is going down. Policing is more effective than ever before. Our strategy is working. Our police are working harder than ever before. The member for Midland cannot stand it, but the community loves it. Our police know that they are supported by a government that introduces legislation to support their efforts in the community. We will continue to do this because the community want that promise fulfilled.