

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — ROEBOURNE

645. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the email dated 2 July 2018 that was tabled on 15 August 2018 and the statement that to the department's knowledge there are no registered or charged offenders in relation to Operation Fledermaus living or having regular contact with children.

- (1) What was the number of registered offenders in relation to Operation Fledermaus that were within the knowledge of the department at the time of the statement?
- (2) What was the number of charged offenders in relation to the operation that were within the knowledge of the department at the time of the statement?
- (3) How has the department defined "registered offender"?
- (4) How has the department defined "charged offender"?
- (5) Has the department's knowledge of the number of registered or charged offenders changed since 2 July?
- (6) If yes to (5), what is the latest number known to the department, and as at what date was that number known?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

Although the WA Police Force formally ceased Operation Fledermaus on 12 March 2018, the investigative work is continuing through the Pilbara joint response team that comprises WA police and child protection officers.

- (1) Records on registered sex offenders are held by WA police on the Australian National Child Offender Register, and not by the Department of Communities. Referrals are provided to the Department of Communities by WA police only when a registered offender is identified as living with or having regular contact with young people.
- (2) The Department of Communities is aware of the charging of offenders through co-working with WA police. WA police holds the up-to-date information on charged offenders, as does the Department of Justice.
- (3) "Registered offender" is defined pursuant to section 557K of the Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913.
- (4) A "charged offender" is defined as a person who has been charged under chapter XXXI of the Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.