

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — ROEBOURNE

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

I refer to the minister's answer to my question without notice asked on 19 February 2019, and answered on 20 February 2019, in which the minister reconfirmed that the Department of Communities is involved in the monitoring, assessment and management of every case in which a young person charged with or convicted of a sexual offence attends a public school, but indicated that the department is not involved in such cases in which the young person attends a private school.

- (1) Why is the department not involved in such cases when the young person attends a private school?
- (2) Will the minister table the act, regulation, directive, policy or other that empowers the department to exempt itself from involvement in these cases?
- (3) If no to (2), will the minister undertake to comply with section 82 of the Financial Management Act 2006?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) No reference was made to the Department of Communities not being involved in cases in which a young person attends a private school. As per the multi-agency protocols for students charged with harmful sexual behaviours, WA police notify both the Department of Education and the Department of Communities of all students charged. When a young person has been reported, charged or convicted of a sexual offence while attending school—public or private—an initial report will be made to the mandatory reporting service. When the Department of Communities receives a report, it will undertake an initial inquiry around the safety and wellbeing concerns of the victim.

When mandatory reports are made involving a young person who sexually offends, the Department of Communities will also undertake initial inquiries around the safety and wellbeing of the young person. If initial inquiries identify ongoing concerns, safety and wellbeing assessments will be undertaken to identify whether there are ongoing risks in the child or young person's current environment and whether restrictions need to be made to support the safety and wellbeing of them and/or others. When there are ongoing concerns for the safety of children, current protection orders and/or it is a current open case, the Department of Communities is engaged in interagency planning and support.

- (2)–(3) Not applicable.