

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS — ALWYN WAYNE BROWN —
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS

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

I refer to the Attorney General's comments this morning when he confirmed that the responsibility for the sex offender register lay with the Commissioner of Police and to the Premier's subsequent criticism when he said that it was a mistake that the photograph of the sex offender Alwyn Wayne Brown was not on the register sooner. Has the minister sought an explanation from the Commissioner of Police for the delay; and, if so, what is his explanation?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Midland for the question. The police are bound by the provisions of the legislation with respect to when, how and under what circumstances they can publish the image of a dangerous sex offender. We debated this legislation widely in this Parliament; indeed, it was very controversial at the time. I think we in this Parliament should realise that we —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have asked only one question and it is whether an explanation has been sought from the police commissioner; and, if so, what is it. We have not heard any answer to that at all.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Several members interjected.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: We are just hearing a prepared statement rather than an answer to my question.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, if you want to take a point of order, you take a short point of order; you do not make a speech.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Maybe you can stop people interjecting when I make it.

The SPEAKER: That is it; I think we all understand.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I understand the member's frustration with interjections.

The website is the only one of its kind in this country and when it was introduced, it was very controversial. We put very strict checks and balances into the legislation to ensure that it would not be misused. The court ordered —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The court ordered —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I just ask you to stop it now.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The court ordered the release of the person in question on Friday and his photograph was published on the website today.