

BAIL ACT — COMMISSIONER OF POLICE'S COMMENTS

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

I have a supplementary question. In February, for the minister's information, Karl O'Callaghan said in the newspaper that he had made a call for an overhaul of Western Australia's bail laws, claiming officers wasted far too much time chasing repeat offenders only to see them back in court again. What are the changes the commissioner has asked the minister for? If she knows what they are, why will she not tell the house? Why is she hiding behind some gobbledygook answer?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I think I articulated quite succinctly that a number of changes to the Bail Act are either before Parliament or are being proposed to Parliament.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time. Has the minister anything further to say?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: To go back to what I said, and perhaps the member would like to listen, I said that the commissioner told me he wanted to tighten up bail conditions and ensure that there were more serious consequences for offenders who breach bail. Police find that when they are dealing with recidivist offenders, the court will often impose conditions such as a curfew or a geographical restriction on where they can go.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the second time. A quick answer, thank you.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The offender might be required to not reoffend or be subject to a range of initiatives. As I said earlier, and I will say again, when I am ready to bring those changes to this place, I will do so. At the moment, where has our priority been? Our priority was interrupted today by a stupid political stunt while we were dealing with legislation to deal with methamphetamine transportation around the state. That is where the opposition's priorities are. Our priorities are road traffic legislation and methamphetamine transit route legislation.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the third time. Minister, you have 10 seconds.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will bring the legislation to this place in due course, and I expect the support of the opposition when I do so.