

POLICE — OFFENDER BLOOD TESTING

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

I have a supplementary question. Minister, given that police have constantly been asking the government since 2008 for mandatory blood tests for offenders who assault police, why does the government not have the legislation ready; and what act would be amended?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I think I made it very clear that this issue has been raised with me recently. In the three months that I have been minister, I have had a number of issues raised with me. This is certainly one of the areas I have identified as something that would make good sense to progress. However, it is an issue that needs a broad range of consultation. I would need consultation with the Department of Health and the Minister for Health. I would need the concurrence of a number of other areas. It is not something that can be done in the blink of an eye. It is something that I am interested in progressing with the Minister for Health in consultation further down the track.