

POLICE — SPIT HOODS

1132. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer the minister to the answer I received to my question without notice 1058, asked on 26 October 2022, regarding the continued use of spit hoods by the Western Australia Police Force, and I hope for some clarification.

- (1) What alternatives have been ruled out as replacements for spit hoods in the Perth watch house, and why were they deemed inappropriate in each case?
- (2) Is the minister aware that other Australian jurisdictions have accepted officer-worn personal protective equipment, specifically visors, as a practical and viable alternative; and, have visors been considered here; and, if visors are unviable here in Perth, what makes the Perth watch house different from watch houses in Adelaide, Brisbane and Darwin?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

The Western Australia Police Force advises —

- (1) As of 16 November 2022, no PPE alternatives have been ruled out or considered for replacement. At this time, the spit hood provides the most considered protection to both custodial officers and detainees, allowing the detainee to see and breathe freely through the material.
- (2) Please refer to answer provided in (1).