

GERALDTON G4S CUSTODIAL SERVICES PRISONER TRANSPORT FACILITY

948. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the Geraldton facility of the prisoner transport company G4S Custodial Services and alleged security breaches by its officers, such as allowing prisoners to have sunglasses, watches and belts.

- (1) Are prisoners at the Geraldton facility allowed possession of such items?
- (2) Was the acting supervisor required to enforce policy and procedures in relation to this practice?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the acting supervisor has now been demoted for complaining to G4S of being bullied and for trying to stamp out non-conforming practices?
- (4) Can the minister give an assurance that he will investigate this matter and report back to the house; and, if not, why not?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Corrective Services advises as follows —

- (1) All persons admitted into custody are searched and items of contraband are removed and stored as prisoner property. The extent to which persons are permitted sunglasses, watches, belts and the like is dependent on the extent to which they may compromise the good order and security of the custody area. In considering whether such items compromise security and good order, contract workers consider the nature of the item and the demeanour of the person. The items described are all items generally permitted within a prison and court environment.
- (2) The responsibility of the acting supervisor is to provide guidance and direction to all staff under his or her control. When a contract worker is unsure whether an item is contraband and requires removal, the contract worker should refer the matter to the acting supervisor for a decision.
- (3) No.
- (4) The matter is presently part of a process between G4S Custodial Services and its employee. It would not be appropriate for the minister to intervene in the process.