



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE

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Dr Sarah Palmer  
Principal Research Officer  
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6005

Dear Dr Palmer

**Domestic Violence Incident Reports - 2013-14 and 2014-15 Financial Years**

I note your comments of 22 September 2015 regarding the decrease in the number of Domestic Violence Incidents in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and the Crime Statistics tables on the WA Police website showing that Domestic Assault and Sexual Assault have increased in the past year.

As per the data tables provided on 8 September 2015, the number of Domestic Violence flagged Incidents has decreased overall from 43,463 offences in 2013-14 to 42,877 offences in 2014-15. To assist in consideration of Domestic Violence offences, data tables were also provided to separate Domestic Violence flagged Incidents where an offence has been reported and Domestic Violence flagged Incidents where no crime is detected.

The number of non-crime (general) Domestic Violence flagged Incidents has decreased from 21,892 in 2013-14 to 19,386 in 2014-15. However, the number of Domestic Violence flagged Incidents where an offence has been reported to the police has increased from 21,571 offences in 2013-14 to 23,491 offences in 2014-15.

Domestic Assault is a subset of all Domestic Violence flagged Incidents where an offence has been reported and has increased in line with the overall increase in these incidents. Sexual Assault is not exclusively related to Domestic Violence and therefore would not correlate with Domestic Violence flagged crime incidents.

As outlined above, a correlation is clearer between Domestic Assault and Domestic Violence flagged Incidents where an offence has been reported.

I trust this provides some clarification.

Yours sincerely

  
GARY DREIBERGS APM  
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

30 September 2015