

MR ARTHUR GREER, FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN TRIAL

641. Hon Derrick Tomlinson to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer to Question No. 413, asked by me on Wednesday, November 27 2002 regarding forensic evidence in the trial of Arthur Greer -

- (1) Was a fingerprint found on masking tape attached to a sheet of clear plastic located in the area where the lower remains, identified as those of Sharon Mason, were found?
- (2) Was evidence given at the trial of Arthur Greer on August 3 1993 by Mr Sheridan that the fingerprint on the masking tape was compared with the fingerprint of Arthur Greer and that it was not identical?
- (3) Was the fingerprint on the masking tape compared with the fingerprints of other persons of interest in the investigation?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Was a search of existing fingerprint files undertaken to attempt to find a match with the crime scene fingerprint?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) Under what future circumstances might the crime scene fingerprint be compared with fingerprints of other persons who might be implicated in the death of Sharon Mason?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

The WA Police Service advise as follows:

The “fingerprint” referred to in this question is an area of ‘ridge detail’, which may possibly be a partial fingerprint, palm print or footprint.

1. No. The lower remains of Sharon Mason and the masking tape upon which the fingerprint was found were not located in the same setting.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. N/A
5. Yes
6. N/A
7. The area of ridge detail has been registered on the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) ‘Unsolved Latent Database’. Potentially the print could be identified if a previously unknown person’s fingerprints, palm prints or footprints were provided for comparison, or registered on NAFIS.