

POLICE CRIME STATISTICS, REPORTING AND RECORDING CHANGES

1944. Hon Derrick Tomlinson to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer the Minister to the page 3 of the Police Crime Statistics for the December quarter 2003, which states that some statistics may not be comparable because of changes to reporting and recording changes, and I ask -

- (1) To which offences have reporting changes been made?
- (2) What are the nature of these changes?
- (3) For each of the offences in (1), did the reporting changes reduce or increase the number of reported offences contained in that document?
- (4) To which offences have recording changes been made?
- (5) What are the nature of these changes?
- (6) For each of the offences in (4), did the recording changes reduce or increase the number of reported offences contained in that document?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(3) The Western Australia Police Service have made reporting changes to Fraud and Graffiti offences. The Police Service advise that the reporting of Fraud offences has been affected by policy changes in some sectors of the finance industry. These changes are associated with reporters increasing their value threshold used to determine which offences they report to the Police and generally reduced the number of reported offences. The Police Service advise that different reporting practices of some Government agencies, Local Government Authorities and private enterprise have affected the number of reported Graffiti offences. For example, some public transit operators report 'major' graffiti incidents to the Police, other operators report all incidents and some Local Authorities require Graffiti removal contractors to report all offences to the Police, others do not. This has generally reduced the number of reported offences.
- (4)-(6) The Western Australia Police Service have made recording changes to Homicide/ Manslaughter/ Driving Causing Death, Non-Aggravated Assault/ Assault Police Officer, Sexual Assault, Fraud and Graffiti offences. In September 2002, the Police Service commenced progressively replacing the Offence Information System (OIS) with the new FrontLine Information Management System (IMS). Until state-wide roll out of the IMS is completed (and for ongoing clearing of historical offences in the OIS), dual systems are operating. There are significant differences between the OIS and the IMS in the way offences are recorded, for example, in the OIS the recording of offences is based on categories that have developed and evolved for Police operational purposes, whereas in the IMS categories are statute-based. In addition, there have been (and will continue to be) functionality differences between the two Systems. The Western Australia Police Service advise that there has been no loss of total offence numbers, however, changes in offence categorisation have occurred resulting in increases to Homicide and Manslaughter; Non-Aggravated Assault and Property Damage, and decreases to Driving Causing Death; Assault Police Officer; Sexual Assault; Fraud and Graffiti.