

JOONDALUP POLICE DISTRICT, TIME LOST ATTENDING COURT

538. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

- (1) Are any statistics kept of the number of cases where police officers in the Joondalup Police District are required to attend court to give evidence, but are subsequently not required to give that evidence because the case is delayed or dropped?
- (2) If so, is there any indication of the amount of time lost by these police officers?
- (3) If not, will the Minister institute a procedure to assess the time lost, with a view to formulating proposals to reduce or eliminate such wasted or lost time?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

- (1) No
- (2) N/A
- (3)-(4) Any procedure adopted to assess and monitor time lost or wasted would prove to be difficult to manage given the workload of the Prosecuting Office.

Lost time is to a very large extent controlled by the accused, solicitors and magistrates. In a number of cases the Prosecuting Office is not given much notification of an adjournment, a plea reversal or an election for a hearing till their appearance in court. Where sufficient notification is made under these circumstances, the affected officers are called off