

ARTHUR GREER, TRIAL EVIDENCE

798. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

I preface the question by indicating that when I submitted the notice of the question, it was directed to the Attorney General. I was subsequently advised that it was to be sent to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. As a consequence, the Minister for Police may not be able to answer the question in the terms in which I put it.

I refer to question 413 asked by me on Wednesday, 27 November 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 on the trial of Arthur Greer on 3 August 1993 by Mr Sheridan that fingerprints on the masking tape were compared with a fingerprint of Arthur Greer, and that it was not identical?
- (3) Was the fingerprint on the masking tape compared with fingerprints of other persons of interest in the investigation; if not, why not?
- (4) Under what circumstances might the Attorney General authorise the release of fingerprint photographs for forensic comparison with fingerprints of other persons who might be implicated in the death of Sharon Mason?
- (5) Should I put this question on notice?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The member approached me yesterday and he has seen my answer. That is why he added part (5) to the four parts submitted. He would not be surprised by the response that the Minister for Police and Emergency Services has kindly provided to me to give to the honourable member. I showed him it yesterday - it is now a matter to go on the record.

The Western Australian Police Service advises that the information requested is not available in the time required. I therefore ask the honourable member to put the question on notice.

The fifth part of the question was very appropriate.