

CHILDREN IN CARE — POLICE CONTACT

122. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection:

Regarding the welfare of children under the care of the CEO of the Department of Communities —

- (1) Is the minister aware of how many such children had contact with police in the 2022 calendar year; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Is the minister aware of how many such children were charged with a criminal offence in the 2022 calendar year; and, if not, why not?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Child Protection.

- (1)–(2) The Minister for Child Protection is assured by the Department of Communities that Communities engages extensively and regularly with other agencies, including the Western Australia Police Force, about individual children. Communities advises that contact with the WA Police Force may mean a range of different things. Information concerning contact with and charges laid by the WA Police Force is recorded on individual case files and not in a centralised and aggregated manner. Reporting this information would require a manual review of individual case files, which would constitute an unreasonable diversion of Communities' resources.