

POLICE, MAN-HOURS LOST AT COURT DUE TO CHANGES IN TIMES

1876. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 720 in February 2003 and ask -

- (a) will the Minister implement a review of Police man-hours lost as a result of changes to court times and cancelled court cases; and
- (b) will the Minister seek to have the Police Service log time lost at court due to changes to court times and cancelled court cases?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

The Western Australia Police Service advise that the Law Reform Commission (LRC) conducted a review of the listings practices of the criminal and civil lower courts.

As a result of the LRC's report and following a consultative whole-of-government approach, the Department of Justice introduced an initiative which would see a massive reduction in the number of hearing matters not proceeding on allotted dates.

This initiative was implemented as a pilot project in the Perth Court of Petty Sessions in September 2003.

The Police Service's Prosecuting Division has worked closely with the Department of Justice and other external agencies to ensure the success of the initiative.

The Police Service will benefit from this initiative through a substantial reduction in the man-hours lost due to matters being adjourned on the allotted hearing date.

An evaluation of this initiative is due to be completed in March 2004.