

PARLIAMENTARY INSPECTOR OF THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION —
REPORT INTO EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE BY THE POLICE

604. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Police:

Before I ask my question without notice, I would like to welcome, on behalf of the member for Forrestfield, the students of Dawson Park Primary School.

I asked the minister yesterday about his correspondence to a person involved in an incident with WA Police. I ask the question again.

- (1) Has the minister been briefed on the issue and has he read the letters to Mr Cunningham he signed in January?
- (2) Has the minister spoken to the Commissioner of Police about this incident?
- (3) What action will the minister now take?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

(1)–(3) I thank the member for the question today. I am slightly more advanced today because I know what the member is talking about and I know roughly what date he is referring to.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Just be quiet!

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I formally call you to order for the first time today. If you wish to ask a question, get to your feet. I have given the call to the Minister for Police.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Mr Speaker —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, enable the minister to make his response to the member for Armadale. Member for Girrawheen, I formally call you to order for the second time today.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: In reference to the member for Armadale's question, yesterday, I think, the member asked when I was given advice on that particular issue or when I first became aware of it. That was a very difficult question to answer without some notice, because I did not want to mislead the house or the member by saying it was in November or December, if that was the wrong answer. As the member knows, I was furnished with the letter from the person that the member is referring to—Mr Cunningham—and indeed I also have my response to him. The member is also aware that I said the same as the Attorney General; that letter was headed quite clearly "confidential and without prejudice". That is why I was not prepared to table it in the house yesterday. I am still prepared to show the member that letter and my response to Mr Cunningham. In the second part of the member's question he asked whether I had spoken to the commissioner about this and what is happening.

Mr E.S. Ripper interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am answering the question that was put by the member for Armadale.

Mr E.S. Ripper: I want you to answer the question that was asked.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Look, the member for Armadale does not need the Leader of the Opposition's help; he is far more intelligent than the Leader of the Opposition. I respect him far more than I respect the Leader of the Opposition. I can tell the member for Armadale that I had a briefing yesterday and the commissioner had asked for that particular incident that the member is talking about to be put forward again to the Corruption and Crime Commission. The copy of that correspondence was from about eight or nine days ago. That correspondence to the CCC asked it to have another look at the incident because the commissioner wanted it further investigated. I can tell members that from discussions I have had with the commissioner, there is no question that over the past few years the standard of internal investigations within the police has been enhanced. I am pleased that today, in the vast majority of cases, the CCC is happy with the internal investigations that the police have carried out. If it is not —

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am talking to the member for Armadale. If it is not, the CCC will investigate.