

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, RELEASE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

270. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Did the minister seek legal advice before publicly blurting out private and privileged information regarding the Leader of the Opposition on the Paul Murray show on Monday 30 May?
- (2) At the time had the Commissioner of Police advised or recommended that the minister release this information to the public?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

- (1)-(2) Essentially, the answers to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's questions are no. I have already made that clear. If he had been listening - perhaps he was too busy interjecting - he would have heard me say earlier this afternoon that I had not sought advice prior to making the comment. The comment was not premeditated. It was made in response to Paul Murray at a time when he was obviously putting to me a statement that other people had made, that perhaps Matt Birney had been dealt with differently from someone else. The assumption was out there in the media that he had blown under the limit on the first breath test in his driveway and that he had blown well under the limit at Kensington Police Station. The figures were not accurate. All I did was seek to correct that accuracy. I did not need to seek legal advice on that because it is not confidential information. In fact, information on breath tests is provided to a range of people on a range of occasions; I might just mention insurance companies as being one of them.