

NORTHAMPTON POLICE STATION, REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF OFFICERS

**566. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:**

Given the minister's assurance in this place on Tuesday, 16 August 2005, that the number of officers at the Northampton police station would not be reduced -

- (1) Can the minister confirm that, following the transfer of a police officer from Northampton, there are no plans to fill this position?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that this position at Northampton Police Station has been transferred to Mingenew?
- (3) What justification can the minister give for the reduction of officer numbers at Northampton?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

On behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I thank Hon Murray Criddle for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Commissioner of Police is responsible for deploying both sworn and unsworn staff. District superintendents deploy resources within their districts to meet the policing needs of the community. The Western Australia Police has made a management decision to transfer a police officer position from Northampton to Mingenew Police Station. This decision is despite previous advice provided to the minister by the Western Australia Police that it was not intended to reduce staffing at Northampton. Does that make sense to the member now?

**Hon Murray Criddle:** It means that there is nobody in Northampton and that a person has been shifted from Northampton against the advice that was given.

**Hon KIM CHANCE:** Yes, it is against the advice that the minister had given earlier. However, there is another paragraph to the answer.

The Western Australia Police advises that it is satisfied that the police officers and support staff remaining at the Northampton Police Station will be sufficient to meet local community needs and social expectations.

The answer implies that a number of police officers are left at Northampton. The member might like to follow that up.

**Hon Murray Criddle:** I know it very well. They're not happy.