

PRISON OFFICERS, PAID OVERTIME

517. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Ministry of Justice been instructed to comply with Government wages policy?
- (2) What is that policy in terms of allowable wage increases?
- (3) Has the Ministry agreed or proposed to reintroduce paid overtime at the rate of time and a half for prison officers when that is currently not paid under the Prison Officers Award?
- (4) Is it the intention of the Ministry to ensure that such overtime is not worked?
- (5) If so, how will that be accommodated?
- (6) If not, to what extent, in percentage and dollar terms, will this change increase the wages bill?
- (7) Will this change result in staff numbers being cut on some occasions to an unsafe level in order to minimise costs within prisons?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) No. However, the Ministry of Justice does comply with Government Wages Policy.
- (2) The Government Wages Policies have provided for a range of wages outcomes.
- (3) The Ministry of Justice and the Western Australian Prison Officers Union agreed on a consent Order of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, which varied the operation of the Gaol Officers Award 1998 to provide for paid overtime.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) There should be no increase in the wage cost as a result of this change.
- (7) No.