

POLICE — CHILD PROTECTION

145. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the incorrect answer to question without notice 1111 on 20 September 2023, which was thereafter the subject of a correction and apology on 10 October 2023.

- (1) Is the Minister for Police aware that the Minister for Education has informed the house that on 14 November 2019 the Department of Education first learnt of police investigations into a contractor who was taking indecent photos of children in primary and secondary schools?
- (2) Is the minister aware that the Minister for Education has also informed the house that the Western Australia Police Force was the agency with the responsibility to inform the working with children screening unit of this matter?
- (3) Does the minister recall that as part of his correction he informed the house that WA Police did not do this until 15 April 2020?
- (4) Is it usually the case that WA police takes five months to fulfil this responsibility?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I answer on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services who is absent on urgent parliamentary business. I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

- (1)–(4) The Western Australia Police Force advises that the working with children screening unit—WWCSU—falls within the responsibility of the Department of Communities. The WA Police Force notified the school on 14 November 2019 as the mandatory report is not sent to the Department of Education. On 1 July 2023, the WA Police Force and the WWCSU implemented an automated, near real-time information sharing process. From this date, the WWCSU is notified automatically when a working with children cardholder is charged with an offence. Prior to this date, the system relied on manual effort to identify a charged person as a working with children cardholder and ensure WWCSU notification.