

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

2014–15 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE
TAKEN AT PERTH
MONDAY, 16 JUNE 2014**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE

Members

**Hon Ken Travers (Chair)
Hon Peter Katsambanis (Deputy Chair)
Hon Martin Aldridge
Hon Alanna Clohesy
Hon Rick Mazza**

Hearing commenced at 2.00 pm

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN

Attorney General representing the Minister for Police, examined:

Dr KARL O'CALLAGHAN

Commissioner of Police, examined:

Mr ANTHONY KANNIS

Executive Director, examined:

Ms SANTA CARDENIA

Acting Director of Finance, examined:

Mr SHAUN HODGES

Director, Strategy and Performance, examined:

Mr CRAIG WARD

Assistant Commissioner, State Crime, examined:

Mr MARTIN CONNOLLY

Principal Policy Adviser, Office of the Attorney General, examined:

The CHAIR: On behalf of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, I would like to welcome you to today's hearing. Firstly, I ask the witnesses if they can confirm that they have read, understood and signed a document headed "Information for Witnesses"?

The Witnesses: Yes.

The CHAIR: Witnesses need to be aware of the severe penalties that apply to persons providing false or misleading testimony to a parliamentary committee. It is essential that all your testimony before the committee is complete and truthful to the best of your knowledge. This hearing is being recorded by Hansard and a transcript of your evidence will be provided to you. The hearing is being held in public, although there is discretion available to the committee to hear evidence in private, either of its own motion or at a witness's request. If, for some reason, you wish to make a confidential statement during today's proceedings, you should request that the evidence be taken in closed session before answering the question. Government agencies and departments have an important role and duty in assisting Parliament to scrutinise the budget papers on behalf of the people of Western Australia, and the committee values your assistance with this.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: Unless anyone has a statement to make, I will invite anyone who wants to ask questions. I have Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Adele Farina and Hon Dave Grills, so I will go with Hon Sue Ellery first up and then I will come to the others.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everybody. On page 370 there is a reference to "Frontline 2020" and I want to ask about what that will mean for the structure of

districts, I guess. What will the new districts be, where will the district offices be located, which districts might be amalgamated, and which district offices might close?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would ask the Commissioner of Police respond to that.

Dr O'Callaghan: It is proposed that under Frontline 2020 there is an amalgamation of metropolitan districts. It is proposed that south metropolitan and Peel will merge to form one district; that central and east, which is the Midland area, will merge to form one district; that west and north west will merge to form one district; and the fourth district will be south east metro, which does not really change because it is a quite large geographic area. The merging is at an administrative level only, so it is at the district administration level in each of those areas. It does not apply to police stations or the establishment of response groups at all.

Hon SUE ELLERY: To follow that up, I appreciate what you are saying about it applying to administrative functions, not to actual police stations. Does it mean, though, that there will be any change in where the district offices operate from; and in particular that merge between south and Peel, where will the district office be for that?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I ask the commissioner to answer.

Dr O'Callaghan: It is proposed that the district office will move eventually to the new Cockburn Central site, so it is planned to build a very large police station and administration centre at Cockburn Central. That is on the drawing board. That is where the administrative centre for that particular district will be eventually.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Is Midland within south east?

Dr O'Callaghan: No. It will be part of the merge of Central and what we call the eastern district. So, south east does not include Midland. South east is the district which—just to help you understand how it is structured—extends from the Causeway at Vic Park all the way down Albany Highway to Armadale and beyond to Mundijong. It goes as far east as Belmont–Redcliffe and as far west as Canning Vale.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you. In respect then to the administrative functions that are currently done at Midland, where will the new district office be that would incorporate that function?

Dr O'Callaghan: I think the intention is to have, though, that area run from Central; so, that would be from the Northbridge police complex.

Hon SUE ELLERY: That is Roe Street?

Dr O'Callaghan: Yes.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I have a few more questions about this, if that is okay. The Chair is not stopping me, so I will keep going.

The CHAIR: I am happy to let you have a few questions and I will let Hon Dave Grills have a few questions.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Are you able to tell me how many, if any, police stations closed in 2013–14?

Dr O'Callaghan: The only police station that I am aware of that has closed in the last 12 months is Wickham police station. Wickham police station was closed with the consent of the local member and local government because the building was significantly damaged by white ants and there is a significant cost to rebuilding it. It is only about nine or ten kays from Roebourne, so those officers, although they still live in Wickham, have been moved to Roebourne. There has been no closure of metropolitan police stations and no others in regional Western Australia

Hon SUE ELLERY: Is there any plan to close in 2014–15.

Dr O'Callaghan: It is not planned to close any police station in Western Australia in 2014–15.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you. In terms of the savings that might be generated by merging or amalgamating—whatever is the correct word—those district functions, have you been able to quantify what savings that might generate?

Dr O’Callaghan: No, I have not. I think what we have to do is place into context what the purpose of Frontline 2020 is. The purpose of Frontline 2020 is not necessarily to save money. The purpose of Frontline 2020 is to find positions within the WA Police which are administrative and move those administrative positions to the front line to provide a better front-line policing service. So, although there may be some savings, that is a secondary consideration as far as we are concerned. What we are trying to do is reduce administration and compliance workloads and move those resources into the districts in that new operating model that you have probably been aware of that has been running in the south east metro. But to make those models work, you actually need a critical number of people on the ground, and that would mean that we would have to increase the numbers of police in districts. So, most districts will have an increase in police, and though that increase will come from a combination of new numbers which are being recruited as part of the government’s 550 commitment and the movement of officers from administrative positions back out on to the street.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Can I confirm in respect of the new numbers, my understanding from estimates in the other place was that of that 550, we are currently 100 short of that. Is that accurate? I think that was the information given in the Assembly estimates.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would ask Mr Kannis to respond to that.

Mr Kannis: It is best by answering that at the moment we have 5 702 police officers; that was as at 31 May 2014. If I can clarify the reference to the shortfall, the recruitment of officers in 2013–14 is scheduled to be around 376. That is to cover growth and attrition. However, our numbers are affected by the 190 voluntary severances that were offered between January and March; therefore, our numbers will drop below for a little while, but we are confident that we will get to the 400 additional police officers by 30 June 2017.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Can we get an understanding of the targets between now and 2017? Can you map that out for me so that you think you will have so many by which date and so many by which date to take you through to reaching that target in 2017?

[2.10 pm]

Mr Kannis: I can tell you that as at 30 June 2015, we expect to have 5 948 officers.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Yes.

Mr Kannis: We plan then to progress to the 6 204 by 30 June 2017.

Hon SUE ELLERY: So there are still two years between 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2017. Do you have how you are going to get there?

Mr Kannis: I do not have a number off the top of my head.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Would you be able to take that on notice as supplementary information?

Mr Kannis: Yes.

[*Supplementary Information No A1.*]

Hon SUE ELLERY: The commissioner, when he answered my question earlier about whether there would be any savings, identified that generating savings by doing the restructure was not a prime objective. It might be a secondary benefit, I guess. That is my word. Assuming you meet your primary target, have you done any numbers on what would happen if you got that benefit? Have you been able to calculate even though it is not your primary objective that you would make some savings and what that figure may be?

Dr O’Callaghan: Just to give you an example, we have been going through what is called a service definition process, which looks at all 480-odd business units in the WA Police. Part of that is to identify whether you can get efficiencies out of that and from efficiencies come—I will not call them savings—some identification of being able to spend less money in some areas and more in others. Now, we have done some work on the total amount of money that may be able for reinvestment as part of that process. I do not have those figures with me, so we can provide that as supplementary. I cannot advise you at this stage whether it has been broken down in terms of what savings may come out of the merging of the districts, but we can have a look and see if we can provide that.

[*Supplementary Information No A2.*]

Hon SUE ELLERY: Can I just be cheeky and ask: anything that you do save, do you get to keep that or does it go into consolidated revenue?

Dr O’Callaghan: That is a matter for the minister and government. We can just identify that there is money to be identified that can be reinvested or moved. That is not a decision for me so much.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Is it allocated in your budget though, at the moment, the expected savings? Is any expected savings built into your budget at the moment?

Dr O’Callaghan: I think Mr Kannis would be better to answer that if that is all right.

Mr Kannis: We have those funds in our budget at the moment. In our expense limit going out to 2017–18 we are confident that we can meet those budget constraints.

The CHAIR: But do you have to do these reforms to be able to do that or do you have sufficient enough funding to continue running the business as usual and so if you did not make these changes, you would not need to make savings?

Mr Kannis: While a lot of things could change between now and then, our current estimation is that we are confident we can achieve those budget bottom lines.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The changes Hon Sue Ellery was talking about—you suspect that they may create some savings over and above what is currently built into your budget?

Mr Kannis: Yes, but they will assist as part of the strategy to achieve the budget.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Good afternoon. The 2014–15 budget provides \$1.3 million to WA Police to enable completion of the state CCTV strategy and business case and provide grants to local governments to install CCTV infrastructure in prime hotspots. There was a million dollars for that. They further advise that the state CCTV strategy and business case is expected to be completed by the end of 2014–15. Whose responsibility will it be to identify crime hotspots? Will it be police, local government or a collaborative process?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Can we have a reference to which page of the budget papers the member is referring?

Hon DAVE GRILLS: It is page 369 under “Spending Changes”.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: “CCTV Network” in “Spending Changes”—is that what we are looking at?

Mr Kannis: As you mentioned, this is part of the 2013 election commitment. The integration of the statewide CCTV network will be determined by a strategy that is, as you said, to be completed by the end of 2014–15. There is a consultative committee that has met for the first time in the last few weeks towards developing that strategy. While WA Police and the minister are responsible for that strategy, it will be informed by that consultation committee.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Has any of the \$1.3 million been allocated for monitoring the system; and, if not, whose responsibility will it be to monitor the system?

Mr Kannis: An amount of \$300 000 has been allocated to planning for the strategy and the business case going forward. The \$1 million of the \$1.3 million is designated as future grants to be made this financial year.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: So there is money allocated for putting in the systems but nothing else to enhance that?

Mr Kannis: Not at this stage, because that will be determined by the outcome of the strategy and a business case to follow that.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Will the police identify that or local government or collaborative?

Mr Kannis: It will be part of the consultation process with the committee that has been established. While the responsibility would lie with the minister, the actual advice and recommendations will come from that steering committee.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Okay. Thank you very much. Page 376 “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”, line 3.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: “Infrastructure Funding to PCYC”—is that what you are referring to?

Hon DAVE GRILLS: The question is to do with the “Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Fund”, which provides funding to local governments and community groups throughout Western Australia in the budget and \$1.25 million has been allocated to support the initiatives of local government and community organisations designed to prevent crime and improve community safety. Can you tell me some of the types of community issues funded in the 2013–14 period?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would ask that the commissioner respond to that.

Dr O’Callaghan: I understand the question to be what types of things the \$1.2 million will be spent on. The community safety and crime prevention partnership fund provides grants to local communities and local government for crime prevention programs and is administered by WA Police. The controlled grants programs currently in existence under the fund and continue to be funded include the election commitment to the WA community crime prevention funds, which are focused on community safety grants, CCTV special-purpose grants, including graffiti taskforces and other grant programs such as the Indigenous partnership fund and the local government partnership fund. They are the sorts of things that we might choose to approve under that, but there might be other types of applications coming through.

[2.20 pm]

Hon DAVE GRILLS: What is the process for the allocation and the delivery of those funds?

Dr O’Callaghan: I do not have the details of the process, but if you want the details of the step-by-step way of making an application for those funds, we can provide that by way of supplementary information.

[*Supplementary Information No A3.*]

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Thank you for that. Will the local police be responsible for allocating those funds or will it be allocated through specialised personnel within the police service?

Dr O’Callaghan: No; it is actually done by a committee, so it is not done by local police.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: On page 374, line 14 under the “Works in Progress” heading refers to the “Accommodation Infrastructure Upgrades” program.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Are we looking at the “Police Facilities Major Refurbishment and Upgrade Program”?

Hon DAVE GRILLS: There is \$7.7 million allocated to accommodate an increase in police resources —

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I see, all right.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: — attributed to the boost program.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: “Boost to Police Resources” and under that is “Accommodation Infrastructure Upgrades”.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: I was wondering what portion of the \$7.7 million will be spent in the regions and the locations in the regions.

Mr Kannis: That is part of an overall \$67 million investment in accommodation to boost police numbers. Apart from the Ballajura police station, which is already listed there as a separate line item, the rest remain unallocated at this point in time. We are going through the planning processes that involve the new metropolitan policing model and also other models available around the state. At this stage, we have not got a break-up between metro and regional Western Australia because we have not allocated funds to any particular projects at this stage apart from the Ballajura police station.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Can you give me some indication of whether accommodation in the regions will be upgraded?

Mr Kannis: There are no plans at this stage. Apart from Ballajura, I cannot give you anything for either metro or regional at this stage because we are still determining the allocation and deployment of our officers.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Thank you. On page 373, under the heading “Asset Investment Program”, the third dot point refers to the police facilities major refurbishment and upgrade program, which we just spoke about. It states —

... \$5 million in 2014–15 will be used to undertake immediate and critical work on police facilities to ensure they remain operationally fit-for-purpose.

Given the poor state of many regional police lockups, what part of that refurbishment and how much funding will be used to upgrade program funds that you spend in regional lockups and to allow WA Police the opportunity to utilise this legislation amendment, given the Legislative Assembly Community Development and Justice Standing Committee report titled, “In Safe Custody—Inquiry into Custodial Arrangements in Police Lock-ups”, which refers to numerous police lockups being in an unsatisfactory condition?

Mr Kannis: That item you are referring to refers to general police station upgrades where there are occupational health and other requirements to assist in keeping those up to standard. However, there is a different line item you might be referring to, which is the custodial facilities upgrade program, further down the list on page 374. That is designated for lockup upgrades.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Is that specifically lockup upgrades or is that a place to put prisoners or people who are there to help with their inquiries?

Mr Kannis: It is a program of lockup upgrades. I have a summary of where that money is planned to be spent in 2014–15 if you would like.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Yes, please.

Mr Kannis: We are planning on spending in 2014–15: \$850 000 at Eucla Police Station; \$456 000 at Midland Police Station; \$180 000 at Kununurra Police Station; \$1.732 million at Three Springs Police Station; west metro accommodation upgrade, \$413 000; Wyndham Police Station, \$615 000; and, miscellaneous, \$206 000. I have just given you the estimated total cost that is going to be spent and that will be spread over a number of years. I have got detailed cash flows that we can provide, if you like, but we will spend those amounts at those police stations for upgrades.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: In this financial year?

Mr Kannis: They are going to be conducted in this financial year.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Can you table that?

The CHAIR: Is the document you just read from something you are able to table?

Mr Kannis: We can table this as separate information; it is not in a form I can give you at this stage. But we can table that as supplementary information.

[*Supplementary Information No A4.*]

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Thank you very much.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: Minister, you will be aware that the legislation Hon Dave Grills referred to, which has not passed the Parliament yet—I think it is the Criminal Investigation Amendment Bill—allows police to hold uncharged suspects in secure facilities at police stations. In light of the report the member mentioned about a lot of our regional facilities being not fit for purpose, what program does WA Police have to upgrade those regional facilities? If they do not have one, what will be the arrangements put in place for uncharged suspects at those locations?

Dr O’Callaghan: It is clear that we are not going to upgrade or make operational every watch-house in regional Western Australia. Many of those watch-houses were built 30, 40, 50 years ago and it is not feasible to upgrade them to a current standard. So in those circumstances, we have, for want of a better word, a hub watch-house where those people can be taken and cared for in the facility levels that are required. Where we have a situation where a prisoner is required to be monitored under the CIA and if the legislation changes and the watch-house is not fit for purpose, the police will have to continue to do what they did before. You cannot place a suspect in a watch-house that is not fit for purpose or that is not certified, so that will not happen. It will happen only at locations where the watch-house does meet certain standards.

Hon ADELE FARINA: I have a question generally in relation to the budget—a 2013 election promise—to provide an additional \$1.6 million over four years to fund additional anti-hoon police activity in the suburbs. Where in the budget do I find this line item? If there is funding in this year’s budget, exactly how much funding has been allocated?

Mr Kannis: On page 374 there is a line item, under “New Works” at the bottom of the page, “CCTV Cameras for Hoons”. There is \$170 000 allocated for that. I can give a summary.

Hon ADELE FARINA: The election commitment was for \$1.6 million over four years and the allocation of \$170 000 is not quite \$1.6 million.

[2.30 pm]

Mr Kannis: That is the capital component of the funds that we were allocated. I am not sure whether some of that money was allocated to other agencies; I would need to check on that. There was a further \$1 million proposed to be spent on overtime to overcome hoon drivers but that was not funded additionally to Western Australia Police; that was the rest of the allocation.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Sorry, so that \$1.6 million election commitment has not been funded, is that the position?

Mr Kannis: The only additional funding we have received is \$170 000 for the hoon cameras.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Where are they going to be located?

Mr Kannis: If I can go back square one, \$170 000 has been allocated for the cameras. There is no determination yet of the location of those cameras in that we will be using the CCTV camera working group to actually inform that decisions. What it means is Western Australia Police will use its own resources, and not overtime, to do a number of other activities that are related to that commitment, so rather than receiving additional money for overtime, it will use the additional police program to do any additional activities that would come from that business.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Just so I can get this clear, of the \$1.6 million that was promised at the 2013 election, only \$170 000 has been committed in the budget?

Mr Kannis: In terms of additional funds allocated, yes, \$170 000 is the only additional funds allocated to WA Police. I am not sure about what other funds might have been allocated to other agencies.

Hon ADELE FARINA: I cannot imagine any other agency has responsibility for anti-hoon police activity funding, and that was the election commitment.

My next question is in relation to another 2013 election commitment for an additional \$800 000 over four years to be provided to Crime Stoppers and I understand that was dependent on an MOU being signed between the Minister for Police and the Attorney General. My question is: has the updated MOU been signed; if yes, has additional funding been allocated in the budget; and if so, where do I find it?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Yes, the MOU has been signed. I do not recall the date now but I think it was a couple of months ago. As for the figure involved, I am afraid it has just slipped my mind, but perhaps Mr Kannis might be able to assist.

Hon ADELE FARINA: The figure in the election commitment was \$800 000 and I am just wondering whether it has been allocated in this year's budget; and, if so, where do I find it?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: There has been \$871 000 allocated —

Hon ADELE FARINA: That is where in the budget?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: — out of the "Proceeds of Crime" line item. I refer the member to page 379 of the budget papers. Under the heading "Net Appropriation Determination" is a table and the line item there is described as departmental and that sum is part of the \$34.054 million allocated as part of that item—is incorporated into that.

Hon ADELE FARINA: My next question relates to the CCTV cameras and the funding that was identified by Hon Dave Grills in terms of the CCTV network, which is on page 369 under "Spending Changes". I just note there is currently a significant investment in the CCTV infrastructure in the suburbs of Withers in Bunbury. I was wondering whether any of this funding allocation will actually assist with the funding of the CCTV cameras in Withers and who is actually going to be monitoring those CCTV cameras that have been installed in Withers, whether it will be WA Police or the City of Bunbury; I am just not clear. Some of the information the community is getting is that those CCTV cameras will be wired to WA Police and I just wanted to get clarification whether that is going to be the case.

Dr O'Callaghan: I am not aware of any allocation of specific money to Withers; is that the suburb you are talking about?

Hon ADELE FARINA: Yes, Withers.

Dr O'Callaghan: Generally, the process with CCTV is that police are not in the business of monitoring that. The CCTV strategy will enable us to dial into cameras if there is a problem, so if someone makes a complaint that there is an issue in a suburb of Bunbury or in Bunbury, the CCTV strategy will enable us to dial in from the POC or the PAC into that particular camera and watch what is going on. What the WA Police will not be doing is monitoring the cameras. That will still be the responsibility of whoever owns the cameras.

Hon ADELE FARINA: If a resident living in Withers has a home break-in over a long weekend, and they are away over that long weekend, they come back on the Monday and find out their house has been broken into and there is a CCTV camera in the location of their home and they think the break-in could have been picked up by the CCTV camera, who then views the CCTV footage to determine whether the break-in has been recorded on the camera; how do they go about making a

request for that CCTV footage to be monitored? Do they make that request to the police or do they make it to the City of Bunbury? I asked that question because it has been an issue for CBD property owners in the past two years.

Dr O’Callaghan: If CCTV footage of an alleged crime exists, it is the investigative officer’s responsibility to get the copy of that vision for part of the investigation, so generally what should happen is that the investigating officer will approach whoever is the custodian of the vision, whether that is a nightclub or the City of Bunbury or the PTA, and request a copy of that vision to review. If someone says, “Look, I think my house was broken into over the weekend”, it would be the investigating officer’s responsibility to look at that vision to see whether they can identify an offender.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Commissioner, can I just put on the record here that in the past in relation to a CBD property the property owner had significant difficulty getting the police to view the CCTV footage, trying to defer that responsibility to the City of Bunbury officer, who is only employed, I think, Friday and Saturday nights, and maybe Thursday nights, to view CCTV footage, and I had to intervene and I do not particularly want to intervene in every property damage complaint to the WA Police. So I think there is a need to put some policy in place to ensure that police are allocating the time that is needed to view the CCTV cameras. In that case it was over a long weekend and the officer to whom he made the complaint said, “We’re are not sitting down and watching 72 hours of CCTV footage; we don’t have the resources to do that.” If there is a problem, I again ask for additional resources to be provided to the south west, because with the growing population we are in desperate need of additional resources, which I raise every year in estimates.

[2.40 pm]

Dr O’Callaghan: These sorts of problems will be solved by the new operational policing model. If I can explain that just to show you how it will work, in the future operational policing in districts will be broken up into about three strands of operation. One will be your response teams that will go out and deal with the immediate problems, so people call for assistance, they want police attendance, they will get it rapidly and within the time frames that are set as KPIs. There will be another team, which is a team of detectives, and the third team is the local policing team. The local policing team will be isolated from being dragged into response all the time, so they can spend the time on some of these investigations—whether that is gathering evidence or whether it is dealing with family violence or kids out of control. What we are trying to do is free up one portion of your district resources from responding so that they can do some of these more protracted investigations. So we are trying to solve that problem; as you know, we are driving that in the metropolitan area at the moment. So far it has been quite successful, but it will eventually be spread to the larger regional districts as well.

The CHAIR: Member, have you finished your questions on that area?

Hon ADELE FARINA: Yes; I have lots of others though.

The CHAIR: I am sure you have. I was going to move to Hon Peter Katsambanis anyway. Just so members are aware: after Hon Peter Katsambanis, I have Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Adele Farina. Do any other members have questions?

Hon RICK MAZZA: I have questions.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Before I ask my substantive questions, I would like to ask a follow-up question on that issue. Obviously as we go forward we do not want to tie up police resources unnecessarily, but we also know there will be more privately collected CCTV footage. There is obviously a difference between someone providing 72 hours’ worth of videotape and saying “It will be somewhere on there”, or providing a five-minute vignette that they have managed to corral from the extended footage and saying, “This is the important footage.” But in either respect it tends to indicate that if this is going to be happening in the community, there would be a

requirement for some sort of protocol or guidelines as to how police can access and use privately provided CCTV footage, especially in relation to ensuring that any chain of evidence stands up if it is used later on in court. Has any work been done around providing those sorts of guidelines to the force working with the community, so that they know what procedures they should follow in obtaining and utilising private CCTV footage?

Dr O’Callaghan: There is a standard investigative strategy where police officers investigating crimes—let us leave it at the level of crimes at the moment—can request CCTV footage or any type of footage, so mobile phone footage or photographs that are taken. It is generally done as part of the evidence-gathering phase. It is actually listed in their training, the evidence gathering phase of an investigation. Where that footage is owned by somebody who does not want to hand it over, it is possible for us to take out search warrants and obtain the evidence. It is quite well set out in our investigative guidelines; it is not an unusual thing to do. I take your point that as more vision becomes available it creates a greater burden, and that will be something we will have to sort out in the future, probably with technology, because technology is able to identify parts of, for argument’s sake, long pieces of vision where there is actually activity, and separate it out from parts of the vision where there is no activity. We will be investing in those sorts of things as well.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I am sure we will revisit this issue for many years to come as the technology expands, but I will move on to my more substantive questions.

I think the best reference for the first one is page 376 of budget paper No 2, which has regulatory fees and fines. It has come to my attention that traffic infringement notices and other notices issued by the police do not include a capacity to pay by BPAY. People who want to pay the fine either have to send off a cheque or pay by credit card, rather than from their own account. Is there any reason why that is the case?

The CHAIR: If you want to blame the Attorney General, feel free, because I suspect it is his agency that —

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Restrain yourself.

Look, as far as I was aware, there were a variety of ways of paying fines that are registered with the Fines Enforcement Registry. I have to say that the specifics are not with me at the moment, but it can be either by way of cash or credit card and the like. That was my understanding, and it surprises me if that is not the case. So far as fees and fines, I presume these are paid direct to the police in some fashion, rather than those that are simply through the Fines Enforcement Registry, or they may be in the allocation that is recovered through the Fines Enforcement Registry for infringement notices and court fines that are somehow —

Ms Cardenia: If I could just make a comment on that line. That particular line actually makes reference to the charging of fees and charges for things like firearms licences and pawnbrokers; it is not for infringements.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Irrespective, BPAY is probably the most widely used payment form online, and it appears as though if someone cops a traffic infringement notice they cannot use it to pay; unless they have a credit card, they cannot pay online. I am asking why it is the case that in 2014 in Western Australia, people cannot use their own bank account to pay a fine they have been issued with.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I cannot give you an answer on that at the moment. If I can take that on notice, we will work out what fines these are concerned with generally, and what means of payment are available.

The CHAIR: Can I just clarify: when someone is issued with a traffic infringement, is it to the police that they pay it or is it through the courts and the Attorney General’s office that it is paid? I think if we can just get that clarified.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The Fines Enforcement Registry would recover that sum.

The CHAIR: Ultimately.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Ultimately, yes.

The CHAIR: But the initial infringement, if you pay on the infringement, is that a payment made to the police or the Attorney General—someone, somewhere in the court—Attorney General's system?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: As I understand it—I will have this clarified—with the centralisation of fine and infringement notice recovery on behalf of the state with the Fines Enforcement Registry, it would be paid there. That is my understanding of it, but I will clarify that. It will either be paid to the Fines Enforcement Registry or it may be paid to the prosecuting authority. For example, if it is local council it may be paid directly there. As to whether or not they can be paid by BPAY or some other means, I just cannot tell you at the moment.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: My reference is specifically to traffic infringement notices.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Traffic infringements are paid to the Department of Transport rather than to the police.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: They are issued by the police.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: They are issued by the police —

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Yes, and payment is made to the police. They recover —

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Payment is made to the Department of Transport is what I am informed.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: All right; I will take it up with them. But can you confirm that that is the case, because the infringement notice comes out as issued by the police?

The CHAIR: This is always one of those great mysteries that leaves me bewildered. It would be good to clarify it once and for all.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: You do not have to clarify it now, but on notice.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I think it is probably best that we take that on notice, and I can give the member an outline of the manner in which, say, traffic infringement notices are dealt with, and the avenues for payment. If there is deficiency in the manner of payment that limits it unreasonably and there is some sensible way of paying these things in accordance with modern technology, then I am happy to look into it and speak to my colleagues.

The CHAIR: I am happy to take a supplementary, but, Attorney General, are you happy to go and look at that in totality to try to gather some advice from across portfolios? Otherwise, my advice to the member would be that he might need to put in some either advance questions to the Department of Transport or some late questions to the Attorney General department. But if you are happy to agree to take it on as a sort of a —

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Perhaps, just so that we are not running around finding information that is not going to answer the member's questions, he could formulate precisely what he is after, and then I will look into that. He has alerted me to an issue regarding the ability to pay infringement notices and/or fines generally by way of BPAY, and I will explore that. As to these particular items, I am informed they involve pawnbroker licensing fees, firearms licensing fees and firearms infringements and things of that character, but if the member would be good enough to formulate exactly what he is after —

[2.50 pm]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Very clearly, they are traffic infringement notices, speeding fines, red-light cameras and the like. That is, people who are issued with a fine that comes from the police—it has a police logo on it or electronically signed by a police officer—and they are not able

to pay by BPAY or any other method that involves them using a debit account and they must pay by cheque, money order or credit card payment. I would like to clarify why that is the case and why they cannot use those debit methods.

The CHAIR: On top of that I am keen to get a full analysis of who is responsible at what stage—that is, from the time that it is issued by the police and gets to the Fines Enforcement Registry, which is responsible for collecting the money, and where that money is in the budget papers. I ask that because we have tried to do this before and it is one of those issues in which we are chasing around asking one agency, which tells us to ask the next agency and that agency says it relates to another agency. It becomes a mire. If you can assist the committee by bringing together a flowchart of how that works, it would be appreciated.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would be delighted to instruct my department, with the cooperation of the police as well. I am sure they would be pleased to help the committee out in that regard.

The CHAIR: We will make that all part of A5.

[Supplementary Information No A5.]

Hon RICK MAZZA: The police administer the firearms registry and firearms fee, but I see that the \$4 million that is received in firearms fees is shown as income in the Department of Transport and not the police department. I wonder why that is. I refer to the transport division on page 808 of budget paper No 2. A line item shows other income for firearm licence fees of \$4 million and I wonder why it is not in the police budget. I would hate to see WA Police missing out on \$4 million.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I am sure they are not keen on it either.

The CHAIR: This is why I want a flowchart.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I thank the member for the question. There is an explanation for it, but perhaps we can take that on notice and provide a definitive answer rather than a piecemeal one that may be incorrect in some details.

[Supplementary Information No A6.]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I would like to move on to issues around demand for services. I make reference to an article that appeared not so long ago in *WAtoday*, on 28 March this year, quoting Inspector Neil Royal, who was retiring and who spoke about a methamphetamine epidemic and suggested that in his opinion more than 90 per cent of police pursuits involve traffickers, dealers or offenders high on drugs. I would like to seek input today on whether that is an accurate figure or whether other figures are available around whether 90 per cent of offenders in police pursuits are involved in drugs in some way.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I understand from the commissioner that that may be an opinion and we would not be in a position to comment on that. I am not sure which section of the budget papers that relates to.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: It specifically relates to page 370, “Demand for Services”, which reads —

Western Australia Police continues to address the challenges of providing quality policing services in an environment of increasing demand for services and population growth.

I am trying to determine whether this is a driver of that increase in demand for services.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I thought any drug-fuelled crime creates a demand for police services. As for that particular stimulus to criminal activity, we are not in a position to comment. It is a particular police officer’s opinion on the subject.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Is there any way of measuring it? Do the police have regular drug testing of offenders involved in police pursuits?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Those are operational matters that the commissioner is in the best position to respond to.

Dr O'Callaghan: It depends on the circumstances around the police pursuit. When the pursuit is brought to a conclusion, if there is some suspicion that a person is drug or alcohol affected, they would be tested. Bear in mind we need some suspicion; we cannot go drug testing or breath testing people without suspicion that they may be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. In those cases they would. I point out that this is the opinion of an inspector who is not currently operational and who is retiring. That is not to take anything away from his career. There is no research done into this area, so it would just be anecdotal opinion and I do not think we can answer the question with any credibility because we would all be guessing. Certainly there are people out there who are driving under the influence of drugs. There are more driving under the influence of alcohol, and that is a problem. There are more who simply seek to evade police. There simply is no aggregation of data that will enable me to give Parliament a proper response.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I understand there might be an absence of data and that this is one person's opinion. One of the reasons I raised this today is that it is on the public record, and if it is incorrect this is an opportunity—not the only opportunity—to set the record straight and provide the community with some level of comfort. I take the commissioner's point that there is not extensive research in this area. I am asking whether the police have—I am not necessarily suggesting you have it with you today at your fingertips—information as to the number of drug tests conducted annually over, say, the last three years on Western Australian drivers and the percentage of those who proved positive and for what drugs they proved positive.

Dr O'Callaghan: We would be able to tell you how many drug tests we performed, so we will be able to get that data. I understand you are asking us to give you data for the last three financial years.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Yes, 2011–12 and 2012–13, and the figures to date for 2013–14, given that we are getting to the close of the year.

Dr O'Callaghan: So we will be telling you how many drivers had been tested for drugs and how many of those tested positive, and for what drugs they tested positive?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: That would be extremely helpful for me, if you could. Would you be able to provide the same figures for alcohol—drink-driving tests?

Dr O'Callaghan: We can certainly provide the number of tests we have done over the last three years.

[3.00 pm]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: And the number of people who fail those tests obviously—or the number of people charged?

The CHAIR: Obviously some of that information is contained in your annual reports. In terms of the member's request about 2013–14, how quickly do you have that information available? Do you have it at the end of each month? Do you collect it within the week at the end of each month, or is the best you will have from 31 December 2013?

Dr O'Callaghan: No, we would be collecting them at the end of each month. Now we would not, obviously, be able to give you data up to 30 June because it is not 30 June yet.

The CHAIR: Yes.

Dr O'Callaghan: We can give you —

The CHAIR: Till the end of May?

Dr O'Callaghan: Till the end of May or something like that.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: End of May or end of April or when you have got them. I cannot ask you to create data that you do not have.

[*Supplementary Information No A7.*]

The CHAIR: On that point, can I ask one other quick question?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Yes, sure.

The CHAIR: In terms of the monitoring of something like that, where I would have thought from an intelligence point of view, trying to identify whether there is an increase in pursuits and whether the drivers are high on amphetamines, is that something that you would potentially collect data on from time to time to try to get an idea as to whether that is having an impact, and therefore how that may affect your intelligence-based policing?

Dr O’Callaghan: There would be data. Most police pursuits where someone is apprehended would end up in a reckless driving charge and another charge. If there is a charge associated with drugs or associated with alcohol, you would then be able to work out how many people would be charged with reckless driving and one or another of those offences, so you would get some idea of it. And then we have the traffic intelligence area, which data mines this sort of stuff, but I am not sure to what degree that data is mature enough to provide you with an accurate response at this point in time.

The CHAIR: I am not sure what you mean. If you have that—I accept that any of that information would be with limitations—and if there is any attempt to do that from time to time, to try to identify how many chases they were involved in as part of your analysis of the data, I would appreciate it. Obviously I do not want to impact on operational matters. I certainly do not want to do anything that will assist someone who is using drugs to know what you are up to in terms of catching them. But if there is any information you can provide to the committee along those lines, I would appreciate it. I think that can still be included as part of the original A7, if there is anything there.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Just a little bit further on this issue. I understand there is extensive research and statistics around how prevalent illicit drug use is and the concerns around it are, but the Australian Crime Commission published a report called the “Illicit Drug Data Report 2012–13” which I am sure you are familiar with, commissioner. In one of the sections of its report, it listed what seemed to be a comprehensive state and territory initiatives list on what each state and territory is doing to combat illicit drug use and misuse. It listed initiatives from every single state, except Western Australia. I went through the report three or four times and I was wondering why that was the case. Do we not have any specific initiatives or did they just ignore Western Australia, like the eastern states tend to do sometimes?

Dr O’Callaghan: There are a number of national operations that are run through the Australian Crime Commission of which we are part. I am a member of the board of the Australian Crime Commission; so we had a meeting only last week and we discussed one of the ongoing national operations which is focusing on organised crime, drug distribution and money laundering. We have just approved an extension of that; so we have resources committed to it. I am not quite sure why we are not mentioned in there, but we are working nationally, and that means that every state is involved in operations around the sort of organised crime and drug distribution that you are talking about.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Perhaps my question was a little unclear. There is a section about national initiatives that all the states are involved in. This was the section on state and territory-based initiatives and there is none listed for Western Australia, and you did mention we participated in national initiatives; I welcome that. I am asking you whether we have any state-based initiatives around this area?

Dr O’Callaghan: I might ask the minister to ask Mr Ward, who is in charge of crime, to outline some of the things we are doing for drug investigation in this state.

Mr Ward: There are a number of things we are doing in Western Australia. There are two streams to that. One is under the health stream, so as part of the drug and alcohol office, we are looking heavily at what the best processes are around limiting drug abuse within the communities. Things that are moving more in the law enforcement space, you may have noticed from looking inside the drug data report that you are referring to that Western Australia has a high propensity of clandestine drug laboratories using the Nazi/Birch method, and that is relatively peculiar to Western Australia; so we have a large program in trying to understand why that is, and that is predominantly around substance use-type crooks who are trying to get enough just for their own habits. Unlike the other jurisdictions where we see larger-scale laboratories, the activity that the Western Australia Police have done has forced that into more of a home-grown activity. So we are doing a lot of work in relation to that, both from a health front and from a law enforcement front; so we have developed a team that looks specifically at that.

In terms of the higher level drug matters, we have got strong relationships now through the Australian Crime Commission. I sit on the joint management group in Western Australia where we combine with a number of government agencies, and there is upwards of nine government agencies represented on that committee. From that, we define what are the target groups we want to look at along the drug-dealing trade in Western Australia. The decisions around that are made using the Australian Crime Commission's national criminal target list, which we contribute individuals into, based on a threat-risk assessment matrix model, which allows us to determine who the targets are that we should approach. What we are doing in Western Australia is specifically twofold: we are trying to target a small number of large-scale operations, which have a really good return for the community, and that is evidenced by the recent operation Polo Tricord which we ran predominantly in the suburb of Carabooda, which led across a number of jurisdictions, and it was involved around drug dealing, which was facilitated by the use of unlawful non-citizens as an illegal labour force. Nine government agencies worked on that particular job and we have managed now to almost completely dismantle a drug group that was a thorn in the side of the community of Western Australia for a number of years.

At the same time we are focusing heavily on local activities. So we have now created these district response teams, who are responsible for drug-dealing activities at the suburban level. What you may now be seeing is that we are putting teams into suburbs to target that recidivist suburban-level drug-dealing activity, knowing that that links heavily to volume crime and we are going in. We are not just going in and kicking the door, taking some drugs and moving on; we are putting a regime of dismantling and control around that, which is driven by the local district superintendents—so a local ownership of the problem—and also leverages off local government issues, proceeds of crime matters, and other regulatory bodies as well to get involved in that. So we are not just walking in doing our piece and walking away; we are involving the whole community and other government agencies to do that. So we have a very stringent anti-drug regime.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: You have identified an issue that seemed to be more prevalent in Western Australia than other places around what you term subsistence-style methamphetamine production, which unfortunately means that there are more and more of these small scale, but still extremely explosive, extremely dangerous laboratories in suburbs and towns all over WA. Have you undertaken any community information work to allow the general public, the law-abiding public, to actually be aware of what to look for if someone next door or around the corner or behind them is involved in this sort of activity so they can report it at an early stage, and perhaps nip it in the bud before it explodes and causes a danger to the community?

Mr Ward: Yes, we are on a number of levels, not just at the community level, but also with the pharmacy guild of Western Australia. Predominantly, the ingredients to manufacture those drugs at that level come from pseudoephedrine-type tablets, so we are doing a lot of target hardening with the pharmacy guild to make sure that is less prevalent. We have seen a significant decrease in the number of improvised drug manufacture sites within homes over the last 12 months. This year we

have a substantially slower number of detections, and that is not because we are doing less work—we are probably doing more work in that space—but we are pushing that now. We now see that the majority of the large-scale drug seizures we are getting, five grams and above, are coming from methodologies other than those subsistence—the Nazi/Birch method leaves a particular chemical fingerprint on the drugs. We are analysing more samples from Western Australia than any jurisdiction. We have sent 197 samples to be analysed in Canberra. What we are seeing from that is that it is not coming from that methodology anymore. So with the seizures, we know there is a prevalence in Western Australia of that type of laboratory. We are target hardening through the pharmacy guild, and we have also established the predominance of methamphetamines coming from sources other than that; so we are now turning our activity in that direction.

[3.10 pm]

Hon DAVE GRILLS: I refer to page 376, “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”. I notice that the partnership budget is \$1.25 million. It goes through to forward estimates. I thank Hon Peter Katsambanis for referring to engaging the community. In the budget there is no scope for any movement to enhance that. In the drive to fight crime—a wonderful job that you are doing as well; we all know how drugs damage our communities. The figure remains static and you have said you are looking to engage the community and do lots of other things. Do you think the smaller grassroots areas that this actually relates to might not be putting in as much? Do you think there is an opportunity to engage your community engagement development commission more in that to be part of that part of policing? You have told us a lot about what you are doing to fight crime in the drug labs, but, as you heard before, the people who want to be involved are part of their community. It seems as though we have a bit of a gap between how they actually get part of it because they want to be part of it and where we are actually going. I ask that question given the fact that the budget does not go anywhere. It does not really seem to fit with what you are saying about increasing it.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I ask the commissioner to address that.

Dr O’Callaghan: Community engagement is not all about having money to do it. I did allude earlier to the idea of creating local policing teams. The way it has been working in south east metro, just to give an idea about how police are interacting with the local community, is that police officers are given individual suburbs—maybe one, maybe two—to look after. They have to develop a relationship with the local community. The local community have the mobile phone numbers of their local policing team. They can ring them direct. The local policing team have been keeping the community informed of what is going on through Twitter and Facebook, and vice versa the community have been keeping police informed about what they see through Twitter. It has been very, very successful. In fact in the six months of operation in south east metro, we had a 13 per cent increase in satisfaction rating. I am quite confident that the development of local policing teams, which have a geographically small responsibility, will enable people to approach their local police officer rather than thinking, “Where can I take information to? Who should I ring?” If they do not want to ring, they can send a Twitter message or something like that. We are seeing a lot of good intelligence about drugs. It is not all about laboratories. People are worried about dealers in their street and a whole range of low-level things going on. Police in local policing teams have the time to take out a search warrant and, for want of better terminology, go and kick a door in and have a look at what is going on. We are seeing an improvement in that area. I think community engagement is really about people feeling comfortable with who their local policing team is rather than saying, “I’ve got to ring 131444” or something like that. They get a different person every time. They do not know about their background or what the problems are in their own community. I think that is the way of the future for us.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: Thank you for that. I appreciate that in the metropolitan area, but I am thinking about regional WA. I am thinking about out in the bush, out in Laverton and Sandstone where there are no police stations, and places like that. There is nothing in the budget to enhance or

develop that in the region. One of my previous questions was exactly about how are we going to go about that, or how are you going to go about that in your budget?

Dr O’Callaghan: Country police, especially in small country stations, are masters of community engagement because they generally know everybody in the town. The flow of information is not generally very difficult in those places. It is in the larger centres outside Perth—like Bunbury and Geraldton—where you would have to create those local policing teams for suburbs to create that closer nexus between police and the community. You mentioned Sandstone. I do not see places like Mt Magnet having a particular problem with interacting with the community because there is so much work that goes on between businesses and local residents and the police because it is small. You certainly do not need extra money to do that. You just need good coppers to go out and talk to people on the street, which is really what it is all about at the end of the day.

Hon DAVE GRILLS: I think you are dead right there—good coppers.

Hon RICK MAZZA: I have a couple of questions on firearms licensing. In last year’s budget you had forward estimates of \$200 000 a year for firearm licensing infringements, which is basically the late payment of firearm fees. The actual for 2011–12 was \$140 000 and even though we budgeted for \$200 000 in 2012–13 it was actually only \$101 000. The forward estimates persist to be \$200 000. I wonder why that is.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Which page are we looking at?

Hon RICK MAZZA: We would be looking at page 379.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: This is the item “Firearms Licensing Infringements”?

Hon RICK MAZZA: Yes; infringements. The budget for 2012–13 was \$200 000.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Perhaps Mr Kannis can address that.

Mr Kannis: We acknowledge that the actuals have actually come below budget on a number of occasions. It is not material enough for us to actually adjust. If there was an ongoing trend, which you have identified, we would probably review that in the next budget process. Given it is such a small amount in the overall scheme of things, we would review that every couple of years. I guess we would look at that again when the trend keeps going that way.

Hon RICK MAZZA: Last year you advised there were 38 FTEs in the firearms branch. With voluntary redundancies, is that figure still the same or has it reduced?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Ward will address that.

Mr Ward: Given it is such a critical area we have made every effort to back up those people that left. There were a number of redundancies—the number escapes me; it was single-digit figures. The issue around firearms licensing falls mainly in the unsworn space where we have a number of contractors and police staff members dealing with those particularly critical firearms licensing issues; getting the data integrity right, making sure the letters and everything go out on time. Those have all been backed up. One of the clear decisions we made was to ensure that that was not touched. So there are a number of police officers who have left but we are looking at making sure those roles are filled from within at the moment.

Hon RICK MAZZA: How many FTEs do you have now?

Mr Ward: My understanding is it is still 38. We have a couple of people acting away at the moment but they have been substantively refilled by people doing higher duties.

Hon RICK MAZZA: There was a promise for a computer upgrade to administer the system; make things more efficient and hopefully get our cost recovery numbers down. I wondered what the progress of that was and when it was likely to be fully implemented.

Mr Ward: It is currently in the design finalisation phase with a view to it being implemented around March, with a handover to the agency completely by June next year. It is going well. There are some issues at the minute in terms of making sure the migration of data comes across. There is another piece of work—the payments gateway—which will have to integrate into this system. But substantively we have awarded the contract to one of our service providers. They are working with us together at the moment to finalise the design. We are doing that in a concurrent way. We are not waiting for one piece of work to be finished before we start the next. That is activity that can commence, that is in the background, if you like, which we are getting on with. At this stage the most recent meeting was that we would have implementation commenced in March 2015, with final handover in June.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Can I begin by asking that the commissioner pass on to Kensington police my appreciation for their use of Twitter. I think the guy who was really funny has moved on, but they are still great and I read their tweets every day.

That was not what I was going to ask a question about—it was that the Premier made a commitment to Sunday courts. I think in the other place, the Minister for Police advised that the cost was around \$900 000. I am just wanting a bit more information about that \$900 000. Is that a cost that she is giving on behalf of police or is that a total cost? I certainly could not find a reference in the budget, so if there is a reference, if you could draw my attention to it I would appreciate it. I wonder if you can confirm what I have been advised, that in fact authorised police officers under the Bail Act can actually admit people to bail? I am wondering if that is not a cheaper exercise rather than \$900 000 on a Sunday court?

[3.20 pm]

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The Sunday courts come under the operation of the Department of the Attorney General. There was a question asked in the other place about the need for Sunday courts in the light of the ability of police officers and justices to grant bail upon arrest and pending the first appearance in the court. I think that I have signed off on an answer to that at some length. But, in substance, the response to it is this: there is a power under the Bail Act. It is my understanding that in some cases police officers do not exercise that power, and it may be because the nature of the offence with which they are charging for that particular accused is not one where they have the power to release on bail. It may also be because circumstances are not such where it would be advisable to release someone on bail on that particular occasion; that is, at the time of arrest and processing. For example, the alleged offender may be drunk or under the influence of some substance or otherwise incapable, apparently, of making some decision in their interests. Accordingly, in the government's view, there is a desirability that those sorts of offenders can be removed from police lockup facilities at an early opportunity, whereas, if someone were to be arrested on a weeknight, they can be brought before a court within 24 hours, often within 12 hours, the next day. On weekends, that is not the case. If someone were to be arrested on, say, a Saturday night, they would not be appearing before a court until the Monday morning. So there are potential efficiencies to be obtained by relieving the police of the necessity to look after these people by having them brought before a court that sits on a Sunday so that that court can make a decision as to whether they ought to be admitted to bail, under what conditions they ought to be admitted to bail and otherwise if they are to be remanded in custody, that they be remanded in custody appropriately.

The election commitment was framed in terms of weekend and night courts where necessary. Upon an assessment of the need, it was determined that there was not as much of a requirement for weekday courts or weeknight courts that would warrant the expense of running one. However, the government, to the satisfaction of its commitment, considered that it was worthwhile to establish Sunday courts for this very purpose so that the police no longer have to worry about these people and where they do not have the power to release on bail because of the nature of the offence, a court

be able to make that decision and take responsibility for it. That is what the funding has been assigned to. I think that comes under the Department of the Attorney General budget rather than the police budget.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you. With respect to the Roe Street facility, any there functions in there that are not police? Are there any plans to move the Chief Magistrate to the Roe Street police facility?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I cannot respond as to whether there are any non-police activities going on there but if you are talking about the police complex, it has been operating since April last year. It is about to start operating a court on Sundays, pursuant to the rapid justice commitment. As to operating weekday courts there, certainly the facilities are there to operate courts but, as presently advised, there is no pressing need to do so, given that the Central Law Courts are operating during weekdays. To operate courts on a weekday basis at Northbridge, Roe Street, would mean duplication of not only having magistrates assigned there, but also security issues and the like which are already well established and operating efficiently at the Central Law Courts. It may be that sometime in the future it is desirable or necessary to allocate magisterial resources and court resources to Roe Street to achieve efficiencies or to meet particular needs but at this point there does not seem to be any need to do so when there is a perfectly adequate court, administration and organisational structure only a matter of streets away.

In the case of Sunday courts, it is sensible that they operate from Roe Street rather than from the Central Law Courts because they do not operate from the Central Law Courts anyway during the weekend, certainly not on Sundays, and the prisoners that we would be dealing with would be ones that are at the Roe Street facility so they can be processed far more efficiently and effectively there. But certainly the facility is there and it is available in the event that it becomes necessary, convenient or economical to deal with matters up in Roe Street.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Page 372 is the reference but I am not sure that that takes me much further. That is where I find “Regional and remote policing services”, service 2, I think it is. I had a question about the entitlements of officers in charge in country stations, in particular, for water consumption. Has there been a change to the policy of reimbursing officers in charge for their water costs? If there has been a change in the policy, when did that happen, when did it start and what were the reasons behind it?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We would appreciate taking that on notice.

[Supplementary Information No A8.]

Hon SUE ELLERY: Page 374 refers to completed works. I am particularly interested in the fleet. What is the current size of the police fleet? How many of each type/make of vehicle do police lease? How many vehicles are allocated to each of the districts? What is the cost of leasing those vehicles in 2013–14, to date, and what is your estimation for 2014–15? Do you have the police fuel bill in 2012–13, year to date 2013–14 and proposed 2014–15?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I am not sure that the commissioner has that information readily to hand.

The CHAIR: At least have part of it ready for a question I have on notice in the house that is due back very shortly.

Dr O’Callaghan: We probably need some clarification because not all vehicles that we own are fleet vehicles. For argument’s sake, motorcycles are not fleet vehicles.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Can I get it for motorcycles as well then, please?

Dr O’Callaghan: So you want anything that has some wheels on it?

Hon SUE ELLERY: Yes; anything that can be used for transport.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Bicycles.

Hon SUE ELLERY: You probably do not need to give me the fuel costs for the bikes but anything that has a motor.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: That counts the horses out then.

Hon SUE ELLERY: That is not horses, but it could include boats.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Any motorised means of transport available to the police, including helicopters.

The CHAIR: I am making sure we have clarity around that. I do not want us to get lost in what the member is asking for. I do not think the member is asking for the air fleet.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I had not thought about that. No, I am not asking for that.

The CHAIR: I think the issue is around vehicles as in trucks, the top cat thing or whatever it is called, cars, utes, any of those and motorbikes, just to be clear about that. We are talking about those motorised two-wheel vehicles, and any boats—the vessels.

[*Supplementary Information No A9.*]

[3.30 pm]

Hon SUE ELLERY: From time to time, there is attention drawn to children being kept in either police lockups or adult facilities. It is not ideal. Nobody plans it; nobody wants that to happen. But I wonder if you have a system where it is brought to your attention as soon as it happens. Do you monitor it in any way, and are you able to identify if, for example, any children have been held in police lockups or adult facilities in 2013–14 to date?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Perhaps the commissioner can address that.

Dr O’Callaghan: They are not allowed to be held in police lockups—period. I do not know if there are any instances where they have been detained because there has been no other alternative, but the general view is that as soon as we get a child, we have to try to place them. So if they are going to stay in custody, then they will have to go to one of the corrective services’ custodial facilities or, if not, to be put out to bail for them to be put into the care of somebody who is able to care for them. So there should be no children in lockups. That is certainly my policy.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Yes, and I appreciate that. My understanding of the circumstances in which it has happened is that it is not of the police’s doing; it is where a magistrate makes an order, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support cannot find the appropriate person for the child to be with or juvenile justice cannot deal with the situation as quickly as possible. So it is not of police making, but it does occur from time to time. I wonder if there have been any that have occurred in 2013–14 to date.

Dr O’Callaghan: I do not know of any, but we could check for you.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you very much.

[*Supplementary Information No A10.*]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I noticed on page 374 the “CrimTrac Child Exploitation Tracking System” and that \$454 000 is probably going to be expended this financial year, but there is nothing in the budget for 2014–15 or the out years. What has happened to that program? It is in completed works. Okay; I answered my own question. Thank you.

The CHAIR: Does the member have any other questions for herself!

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: As I said before, I never repeat myself. I was actually looking at the police station upgrade program, which drew my attention to that, and it was not clear from the

discussion earlier. How much has been set aside in that program for the Morley Police Station upgrade?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I will ask Mr Kannis to address that.

Mr Kannis: The Morley works is actually part of the west metropolitan district accommodation upgrades, so that is another item on page 374, just about three lines above the one you were referring to, and in that one, planned expenditure is \$5.3 million in 2014–15, with \$4.8 million in capital and \$0.5 million in recurrent expenditure.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Will that see that upgrade completed in that financial year?

Mr Kannis: No, it will not be completed. It will all be completed in 2014–15, yes.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: So it will be?

Mr Kannis: Yes, in 2014–15.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Of the \$0.5 million in recurrent, what does that equate to in terms of police officers?

Mr Kannis: I should clarify that does not include any operating cost for police officers. This is an accounting treatment issue. These are things that fall below a \$5 000 threshold, so this could include things like computers and small items. That is why it is treated as operating rather than investing activities; that is the difference there. This does not allow any allowance for police officers.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: So \$5.3 million has been allocated for the Morley upgrade as part of the —

Mr Kannis: I should clarify that. That is \$5.3 million for the whole west metropolitan district accommodation upgrade. If I can just clarify, stage 1 of the works involves extensive additions to Warwick Police Station and was completed in late 2012. Stage 2 will see modification works being undertaken at Scarborough, Morley and Mirrabooka Police Stations to increase accommodation capacity. The extended upgrade works will include the extension of existing buildings at Scarborough and Morley Police Stations, due for completion by November 2014.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: So that did say Morley for completion by 2014.

Mr Kannis: Yes, November 2014.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: How many police officers will it be able to accommodate by November 2014?

Mr Kannis: I believe it is 80 it will be able to accommodate when it is complete.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: And how many police officers are stationed there now?

Mr Kannis: I am not sure that is information we normally release.

The CHAIR: Are all those things you mentioned within that \$10.8 million for the west metropolitan district accommodation upgrade?

Mr Kannis: Yes.

The CHAIR: Can we get as supplementary a breakdown of how much is allocated to each of those different projects, so how much is allocated to each, what the current status of each of them is and when you expect them to be completed?

[*Supplementary Information No A11.*]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Were you asking for the list because that is actually the west metropolitan district accommodation upgrade, which is a separate line item from the police station upgrade program? So which one were you asking for?

The CHAIR: I was asking about the west metropolitan, but maybe we could get it for each of the upgrades for the police station upgrade, because it does jump around. I think you were already getting the custodial facilities upgrade and I think there is the police facilities major refurbishment and upgrade. I think that is the only other one that might have a breakdown into the different categories, so can we get a breakdown for each of those?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: And did you have an implementation timetable included in that supplementary information?

The CHAIR: The status and the date of completion, and then there are also in new works the additions and alterations, although I think that is the one where you said earlier that you may not have that completed where that is all going yet other than Ballajura.

Mr Kannis: Yes; that is correct.

The CHAIR: So how much of that money is for Ballajura?

Mr Kannis: Ballajura is now mentioned separately. Ballajura is \$10.571 million in capital and \$0.4 million in recurrent.

The CHAIR: Have you worked out where the location of that is?

Mr Kannis: We are doing due diligence on potential sites at the moment.

The CHAIR: Does that \$10.5 million include the purchase of land?

Mr Kannis: Yes.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I am going to move from works to a different topic. How much is allocated to the intensive family support project this financial year and in the out years?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Which page are we looking at?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: That is my point. I cannot see it in the budget. It is a pilot project providing intensive support to vulnerable families.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: No-one seems to have heard of it.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: A contractor was advertised for in the press a while ago.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: But from which agency?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: From police.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would have to take that on notice.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: It was to provide tailored intensive in-home support for families in intense need.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I believe that Mr Ward has heard of it, but is not conversant with it. Perhaps if we take that on notice, we will find you an answer.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: As part of that question, if it is police and the tender has been advertised for to provide intensive in-home support, how much has been allocated for that project, but also why are police providing those services and not DCP, and then, as you might expect, all the questions that would flow from that: what is the project methodology, how is it being evaluated, and what relationship is there with DCP and other agencies?

[3.40 pm]

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will find out what we can.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: It could have been wrong. It might not have been police. It could have been DCP. I could be wrong. I have been before, but not often.

The CHAIR: I will make all of that A12.

[*Supplementary Information No A12.*]

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE: I cannot find a specific reference in the budget papers around the question I want to ask, but I will try it with you anyway. It is in relation to the state manhunts that have taken place on 3 January, an escape in Geraldton; on 17 January, an escape from Joondalup hospital; and on 21 May, an escape from RPH. I want to know: what has been the total cost of these impacts on WA Police?

Dr O'Callaghan: The total cost of what, sorry?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE: The total cost of the impacts on the WA Police force in terms of taking out these manhunts.

Dr O'Callaghan: These escapes from whose custody?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE: Serco.

Dr O'Callaghan: I do not have those details available, and I am not sure that we have broken it down. The only time that we recover moneys for what you might call an escapee-type situation is where the commonwealth is responsible. Say, for argument's sake, people were escaping from immigration detention like Yongah Hill, we would seek to recover, and we have an agreement with the federal government to recover that money. Any other escapes in Western Australia are our core function and always have been. So, whether people escape from police custody, Serco's custody or anyone else, if they are not in immigration detention, then we do not seek to recover the moneys; it is just part of our normal business.

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE: How much is being reimbursed to WA Police from the federal government in relation to the Serco cases?

Dr O'Callaghan: We will have to take that on notice, I am sorry.

[*Supplementary Information No A13.*]

Hon ADELE FARINA: I refer the minister to the second-last line item "Road Trauma Trust Account Adjustments" in the spending changes table on page 369, which indicates a negative amount of \$110 000 for 2014–15, and then to the line item "Road Trauma Trust Account" under "Net Appropriation Determination" on page 379 of the budget papers where I note it indicates an increase of \$168 000 for the same year. I was just wondering if you could provide me with an explanation of those two line items.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Kannis can.

Mr Kannis: The spending changes referred to on page 369 is actually an adjustment to the forward estimates that existed last year. So, while there is still an increase between the years, the estimate for 2014–15 is now \$110 000 lower than it was this time last year.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Why?

Mr Kannis: Because that is a determination by the Road Safety Council in terms of its funding that it has approved to come to WA Police.

Hon ADELE FARINA: It is not the basis of a change in calculation?

Mr Kannis: No. It is just a change in decision, or an adjustment by the Road Safety Council in terms of allocation of funds to WA Police.

Hon ADELE FARINA: My next question relates to "Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators" on page 371. We have a list of different indicators and I am particularly interested in the ones that talk about the percentage of priority 1 and 2 incidents in the metropolitan area responded to within 12 minutes; and the same for category 3 incidents. I am just wondering when WA Police will start providing those sorts of figures for the south west area, given that it provides the highest population outside the metropolitan area. Given that the Department of Health are able to provide stats in

relation to emergency attendances for those regional hospitals in the south west, we do not really understand why we cannot get the same stats from police for the south west district.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The commissioner will address that.

Dr O’Callaghan: The KPIs are set between us and government. We are simply not required to provide them outside the metropolitan area, so we do not.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Okay, so my question is to the minister. Why do you not require the police to provide those KPIs outside the metropolitan area, because the population in the south west is expanding? I am continually getting anecdotal evidence from constituents that police response times are getting longer and longer, and police keep telling me that they are not. If they are able to tell me that they are not, someone has got to be keeping figures; and if someone is keeping figures, why will you not release those figures?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It is not a question of releasing the figures. Those are not key performance indicators that the police are required to report on. If your question is aimed at having performance indicators specified for the police for the Bunbury region or the south west region or some other subset of that, then it is a matter that I will direct to the Minister for Police for her consideration.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Can that be a question on notice?

[Supplementary Information No A14.]

The CHAIR: Can I just clarify something in my head in terms of those answers? I take your point, commissioner, that you are not required to have a KPI, but are they something that you would be collecting stats on in terms of response times for police outside of the metropolitan area? I can imagine, and I think we had the conversation earlier about regional centres, towns with police without police stations. So, what internal statistics do you collect in regard to police response times?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The commissioner indicates that Mr Hodges is probably in the best position to address that.

Mr Hodges: If a member of the public calls the police, a job is generated on our CAD system, and as long as the job comes through that system, then we would be able to collect figures on it. If the job does not come through that system, then we would not be able to collect figures on it. So, as long as a member of the public calls the police, we will have the information.

The CHAIR: About response times, about when it is received and when —

Mr Hodges: When it is received, when it is despatched and then when a vehicle or police officer attends at the scene.

The CHAIR: And how easy is it to extract from that system some sort of statistics about what the response times have been?

Mr Hodges: I mean, we do that with this KPI. That is where we get this information from, so we could certainly do it.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Can we extract those figures with respect to the south west district?

The CHAIR: Member, I was going to suggest that what might be the easiest thing is in the first instance to seek them for the greater Bunbury area, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Karratha, Port Hedland and Broome—so, the major regional centres, unless other members want other detail.

Mr Hodges: So, is this A14, Chair?

The CHAIR: We will make this A15 actually to keep it separate to the member’s earlier question.

[Supplementary Information No A15.]

The CHAIR: Is that for this year to date and last year and if it is possible to go back to 2011–12? I am concerned about the resourcing but if it is a simple factor of going in, hitting in the data and getting the information out.

Mr Hodges: Yes, it certainly is, and we will put a caveat on it anyway. It is just a note of caution that when you get those sorts of figures, most jobs in the regional centres do not come through that system. So, the police are generally aware of what is going on and they are generally in the target hotspots because they know the community and the communities are a lot smaller, so a lot of the jobs do not come through that system.

Hon ADELE FARINA: So, what system do they go through?

Mr Hodges: They may call the police officer directly, whatever means they have of contacting. But generally the police are aware of situations, if you like. They might get a call directly to the police station, for instance. So, that is what you have to be very careful of. I can get the figures for the ones that are called to the POC—police operations centre. The ones that are directed through that system we will definitely have. I am just adding a note of caution.

[3.50 pm]

The CHAIR: I appreciate that. At the local police level, would they keep their own statistics of that or not?

Mr Hodges: That would then become onerous. The commissioner talked earlier on about the local policing teams in the metropolitan area now where people are able to contact a police officer directly—we will not have that. If a police officer then goes out and deals with that member of the public, we will not capture that as a statistic.

Hon ADELE FARINA: That is why I was asking about the regional centres. I suspect some of those bigger regional centres would be more reflective of what is happening in Perth where you would ring the 131 444 number or the 000 rather than the local police station, whereas I can imagine in some of the smaller communities you would potentially ring the local police officer on their mobile because you know that is the quickest way of getting them.

Mr Hodges: They do, or they go and knock on the door.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Sorry, I am getting confused. I am not aware of anyone having the personal mobile numbers of police officers in Bunbury that they can ring, whether they are on duty or not, and say, “Can you come out because I have got a home burglary?” Surely they all get put through a system and get registered.

The CHAIR: I think we have asked for the information.

Mr Hodges: Just clarifying, if you want the major regional centres we can —

The CHAIR: The greater Bunbury area, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Karratha, Port Hedland and Broome. I do not think I have missed any there.

Mr Hodges: Are we talking about priority 1s, 2s, 3s?

The CHAIR: In your KPIs you have a response time for each category, so if you can get the data for each category that you report on in the metropolitan area as part of your KPIs.

Mr Hodges: Just to clarify, what you are looking at here is the new KPI; what we currently report against—because the KPIs are changing this year for priority 1s and 2s so are we reporting against the old KPI or —

The CHAIR: Match it so it matches to the current way in which you report in the metropolitan area is probably the simplest way of doing it so you can see to some degree like for like.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I wonder whether the material being provided will be of any use given the several riders that have been attached to qualifications that have been attached to the

information available. If the member is concerned about, essentially, the response time in these various areas the figures that are able to be provided may not be particularly helpful because it would depend on whether it is something in the central Bunbury area or whether it is out of Bunbury in Australind or wherever it happens to be. It may be part of that policing district, but the response times because of the distances involved may not be able to be easily translated with the metropolitan area. I do not know the answer to that. But if the member can identify her concerns, perhaps that might inform the information that the police —

Hon ADELE FARINA: Look, I thought I had. People are phoning CAD with a complaint, a break-in or a whatever, and the response times from police in the south west district are getting longer and longer, and that is the anecdotal evidence that I am being provided with. When I raise it with the police superintendent or here at estimates, I am told there has not been any prolonged response times. So I just want to get figures and I do not understand why figures are provided for the metropolitan area but not regional WA, because clearly they can be obtained from the system, and I want to know what are response times in the south west direct.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I will make a few inquiries about that.

The CHAIR: One of the things that I asked for going back a couple of years—so I accept your point that there may be different response times in these regional centres, but the member's point is whether there is a change in the response time. So, if you think there is a one-year aberration in there somewhere or whatever and you think it is useful to go back a couple of extra years to give a greater sense of over time that there is no change in response times, I would invite the agency to do that but —

Hon ADELE FARINA: Perhaps if I can clarify. Is it the case that the government provides no KPIs to police for response times in regional WA? Is that what the commissioner said to me earlier or perhaps I misunderstood?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I think we have got an idea now about where the member is going. Perhaps the commissioner will be able to assist.

Dr O'Callaghan: The reason response times are not asked for outside the metropolitan area is because you cannot compare the metropolitan area with regional WA. For a start, in the metropolitan area you generally have police stations within 10 kilometres of each other or less, so response times from police stations will be dependent on the distance people have to travel. A person in Bunbury might have to, for argument's sake, go out to Treendale or Brunswick Junction or further down south towards Busselton, so they are firstly travelling a lot further, so you cannot compare regional response times with metropolitan response times. I think what Mr Hodges was also trying to say is: if someone rings 131 444, it gets captured automatically by the system. Someone answers the phone; it goes on to the computer, we know when it starts; we know the CAD dispatch, we know when it finishes. If someone rings the Bunbury Police Station, the police officer answers the phone—he may not load that data immediately; he may not load it until he comes back. So, we do not have an accurate interpretation of what those response times are. So, that is one of the reasons why we do not publish them, because they are not accurate and they are not reflective of the metropolitan response times. If you wanted regional response times and government was to sit down with me and ask me for KPIs, I would not accept the same response times for Bunbury as I would for Perth unless someone was going to put a circle around it and say, "Only for a maximum of 10 kilometres." Those are the difficulties in comparing the two.

Hon ADELE FARINA: I was not asking how many incident responses within the south west have actually been within the metropolitan KPI time frames. I would assume that the police have some KPI time frames for response times in different regional areas and I want to get an indication of how many of those callouts are actually being responded to and what those KPIs might be.

Dr O’Callaghan: The difficulty is I cannot tell you, because if people ring the Bunbury Police Station, that information is not automatically captured at the point. We do not know when the job starts —

Hon ADELE FARINA: Ignoring that —

The CHAIR: Order, member! If you can let the commissioner finish.

Dr O’Callaghan: We do not know when the job starts. When people ring the POC, we do, because it is automatically captured as soon as the phone call is answered. Often we do not know when the job starts, so we do not know how long it has been before it is cleared. That is the problem. If you look at the response times for Mount Magnet, if they have got to travel 50 or 60 kilometres to the nearest station to answer a call for assistance, the response time is a nonsense compared to what you might expect in Bunbury or the metropolitan area. Unless someone rings 131 444, we do not capture the data at the point of call.

Hon ADELE FARINA: But you can provide the data for those who call the CAD system.

Dr O’Callaghan: Only calls that have gone through 131 444; they are the only ones and that will be only a portion of what comes out of Bunbury.

The CHAIR: And 000.

Dr O’Callaghan: Yes, 000.

Hon ADELE FARINA: I would be happy to have the figures in relation to those two phone numbers.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Can I suggest that perhaps there may be a better way of approaching this rather than figures that may not mean much in the circumstances. There may be something that the police have in place that allows them to measure, to the best that they can, whether or not a regional area is operating at the same level of efficiency in responding to certain categories of offences over a period of time, so that they can gauge whether or not last year they were responding to offences broadly in the same way as they were the previous 12 months and so forth as a means of determining whether additional resources were required. It may not be strictly through figures. There may be a variety of factors that they take into account. I do not know if that is the case, but that might be more useful for the member to see whether there has been a decline or increase in service —

Hon ADELE FARINA: Can I just —

The CHAIR: No, I do not want to get into debate going back and forth around the same issue. We have made a specific request for information and I think we clarified that earlier and I gave that “A15”. If the government or the minister wants to provide further information that then helps people interpret that in the way in which you suggest, minister, then the government is welcome to provide that as part of their answer to that material to assist members in interpreting it. Now, member, if you have further questions, I am happy to come back to you for further questions but I want to move on from this point if that is possible.

[4.00 pm]

Hon ADELE FARINA: I have another question but I just might add that St John of God will provide those figures, so I do not see why Police cannot because they are covering the same regional areas. In any event my next question relates to page 379 “Net Appropriations Determination” and the line item “Licences” which, for 2014–15 sets it at \$8.7 million, and that is the same through the forward estimates. Given that licence fees have increased in this budget, I am surprised to see that the amount for 2014–15 is the same as the estimated actual for 2013–14, indicating no increase. I would like an explanation for that and also noting the point made earlier by

Hon Rick Mazza about firearm licences appearing in the Department of Transport budget. Can we get some clarification about which licences are covered by this line item?

Mr Kannis: The assessment about revenue from licences is based on price and volume. Yes, while some prices will increase, there are others that will not and there are changes in volume as well. That is why this number has come out at a flatter level in 2014–15. Pretty much, we do not assume any great increase between 2013–14 and 2014–15 based on those two factors.

Hon ADELE FARINA: What licences are covered by this line item?

Ms Cardenia: That covers firearms licences and application and renewals as well as pawnbrokers, second-hand dealers and the security industry. They are the main areas covered under that.

Hon ADELE FARINA: It does not cover drivers' licences?

Ms Cardenia: No; that is managed through Department of Transport.

Hon ADELE FARINA: If it covers firearm licences, why is there a line item for firearm licences in the Department of Transport budget, which was identified by Hon Rick Mazza earlier?

The CHAIR: I think we have already taken that as a question on notice to get an explanation of that.

Ms Cardenia: I can provide clarity to that. Previously, WA Police was not able to recover directly for firearms licences, so Department of Transport was recovering on behalf of WA Police. WA Police is implementing a new gateway payment system that will alleviate that and licensees will be able to directly access the police system and pay for their licences directly. It was from a previous administration where we were not able to recover directly from licensees.

The CHAIR: Will that include BPAY?

Ms Cardenia: It should; I will make a note!

The CHAIR: It will now, hopefully.

Hon ADELE FARINA: In relation to “Asset Investment Program” “New Works” line item “Police Station Upgrade Program 2015–2018”, are any police stations located in the south west included in that police station program for 2015–2018 and, if so, which stations and what upgrades are proposed?

Mr Kannis: To clarify, that allocation refers to 2015–16; it does not deal with 2014–15. We have not yet got a plan for the use of those funds. We have plans for the use of the moneys in 2014–15.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Are any allocated to south west police stations?

Mr Kannis: We are giving a break-up of those stations on notice as supplementary information, so we will provide that in that answer.

The CHAIR: I have got Hon Martin Aldridge for further questions, Hon Peter Katsambanis and Hon Sue Ellery with further questions and if there is time I have got a couple that I want to ask as well. I will go to Hon Martin Aldridge.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: Page 379, you are receiving an appropriation from the road trauma trust account of almost \$15 million in the next financial year. Can you please provide the committee with a breakdown of those funds on notice if necessary?

Mr Kannis: I will read them item by item. Road trauma trust account increased breath and drug testing, \$4.621 million; enhanced speed enforcement administration costs, \$7.094 million; expansion of drug testing capabilities, \$577 000; advanced traffic motor vehicle, \$256 000; strategic traffic enforcement project, \$2.406; which adds up to \$14.954 million in 2014–15.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: Does the Office of Road Safety and the Road Safety Council fall under WA Police?

Mr Kannis: No; it falls under Main Roads.

The CHAIR: But it is under the Minister for Road Safety, who is also the Minister for Police. It sits in the Main Roads department but is answerable to the Minister for Road Safety, who is also the Minister for Police.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: That is interesting. How do I ask a question about the road trauma trust account —

Hon SUE ELLERY: With great difficulty.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: — because I asked questions of the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Transport last week in relation to the road trauma trust account, and he told me that he could not answer my questions because he was not the Minister for Police. That was during a Main Roads hearing. Who am I meant to ask questions of?

The CHAIR: I can probably answer that. I think the parliamentary secretary may have got being both Minister for Police and Minister for Road Safety confused.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: It does not surprise me; he was confused about a lot of other things.

The CHAIR: I will not comment on that, but I note your comment, member. I think the answer is that as a committee we would need to call the Office of Road Safety and get the Attorney General back as the minister representing the Minister for Road Safety with the appropriate advisers from within the Office of Road Safety that sits within Main Roads. I understand the confusion, but I think that would be the way we would have to progress it.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I think that is right; thank you.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: In that case, I do not have any other questions.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I have a series of questions. Sorry minister, I cannot make eye contact with you unless I lean over or you lean over, so I apologise for that.

The CHAIR: The chamber is designed to stop Sue Ellery and Peter Collier looking at each other!

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Page 371, “Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators”. I have a couple of questions around that. First of all there is an item there, “Percentage of traffic law enforcement contacts made by police officers that target ‘Category A’ offences”. Can you outline briefly what offences are included in category A; either that or provide the information on notice?

Mr Hodges: Thank you, member. The categories currently are category A—the way this works is as an evidence-based system. We look for what category of offences are going to have the biggest impact on road trauma and road deaths, so we ask our police to spend the predominance of their time targeting those types of offences. The current offences in that list are preliminary breath tests, including random breath testing; dangerous and reckless driving offences; non-speed camera speeding offences; unauthorised driving offences, for instance, unlicensed drivers driving contrary to disqualification notices; driving while using a mobile phone; and the non-wearing of seatbelts or restraints.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I was trying to take that all down. Can you repeat what you said the offences are on the area around speeding?

Mr Hodges: Non-speed camera speeding offences; ones where police officers are stood —

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Non-speed cameras?

Mr Hodges: Yes.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Thank you for that. In that table, all bar one of the key effectiveness indicators of the 2013–14 budget are listed as non-applicable. Further to that, there is note (b) to the table that indicates that because of the revised OBM structure and introduction of the new performance indicators for 2014–15, some of these other totals have been recast for

comparative purposes. My questions are: why are all the 2013–14 budget key effectiveness indicators not applicable; and how have those 2012–13 actuals and 2013–14 estimated actuals been recast?

[4.10 pm]

Mr Kannis: I can answer the first part about it. The 2013–14 budget should reflect what was published in the 2013–14 budget. These were not applicable because they were not published, so there were no targets published in the 2013–14 budget. That is the answer to the first question. We have established an estimated actual and target for 2013–14 and 2014–15, but that purely indicates there was no reference to these indicators in the last budget.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: So they are basically new targets; they are a new set of key effectiveness indicators?

Mr Kannis: Yes.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: All right; and they will apply from the 2014–15 year onwards?

Mr Kannis: Yes.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: So they were not applicable in 2012–13 or 2013–14?

Mr Kannis: That is correct.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: So these figures for 2012–13 and 2013–14, if there were no targets, how do we know that those figures are accurate? Were they collated anyway irrespective of not having targets, or those particular targets, to meet?

Mr Hodges: The numbers you see there are the actual pieces of data—as it says at the top of the column, “2012–13 Actuals”, so those are the actual figures. What we have done is when we say “recast”, we have taken all the data we have and re-compared against the new indicators. So those are the actual figures that come out when we recast against those new KPIs.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: All right, so taking that second one as an example—I will not labour the point any further—it says, “The percentage of the community who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that they have confidence in the police”. You were collating that data 2012–13 and 2013–14, you just were not measuring it in the same way as you will be measuring it from now on, is that what I am hearing?

Mr Hodges: Correct, member.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Thank you for that; that is quite useful because it helps me to clarify what that table really represents, so we will look forward to seeing your performance based on those key effectiveness indicators in the future.

I also wanted to ask about an organisation or initiative called the national alliance against alcohol. Is WA Police a member of that alliance; does it have membership?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I will have to take that on notice; no-one seems to know anything about that.

[*Supplementary Information No A16.*]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Does the WA Police provide any funding of any sort to the national alliance against alcohol?

The CHAIR: We will make it all part of A16 if you are happy.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: No-one knows whether they provide the funding or not?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I am not aware of the organisation; I am not sure whether anyone has heard of the organisation. If there is—I would assume no in the light of that—perhaps we could give a definitive answer as part of the first question.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Can you also find out whether any officers of WA Police have ever attended any function or event organised by the national alliance against alcohol in Canberra in their official capacity; and if so, what financial contributions were made to their travel, accommodation and other arrangements?

The CHAIR: I think this can all be part of A16; are there any other parts?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will see what we can find out.

The CHAIR: Before I come back to Hon Sue Ellery I just had a couple of questions. Going back to that issue earlier with firearms licensing, you said you were developing the capacity to collect the fees and fines and all of that. Does that mean that once you have got that capacity it will then come back to the police to run and administer or will still be a sort of an arrangement where transport also does some and you do some or is it intended that it all comes back to the police?

Ms Cardenia: WA Police already administers it. That was the inability to collect the fees or the licence charges, but when that has occurred, then yes, WA Police will be able to recover directly, rather than via the Department of Transport, but it does not change the way we currently process our licences and applications et cetera.

The CHAIR: And in terms of motor vehicle fees and fines, will that then come back to you or will that still be done by the Department of Transport—we are only talking about the firearms areas of it.

Ms Cardenia: Correct.

The CHAIR: What monitoring does the police do of speeds in front of schools during the 40 kilometre periods? Do you do any monitoring of speeds on how people comply with 40 kilometre rules in front of schools?

Dr O'Callaghan: Yes, there are specific deployments to work in school zones, so we would do that on a regular basis and they would be two types of deployments. One would be a speed camera deployment, so that happens regularly as part of the normal process of speed camera deployment; and secondly would be handheld radar devices with the police actually on site and we pay attention to that on a rotating basis as well.

The CHAIR: Do you maintain statistics about whether that—is there a change in behaviour over a period of time of people and the speeds —

Dr O'Callaghan: With the speed cameras we would have statistics on the compliance, not so much for the handhelds.

The CHAIR: So in terms of 2011–12 of 20 000 vehicles that went by, 10 000 were speeding—is that information you could provide to the committee?

Dr O'Callaghan: If we can, I am happy to provide it.

[Supplementary Information No A17.]

The CHAIR: I guess the next question too in terms of that is whether or not the flashing signs, if you actually measure it against schools that have the flashing signs versus schools that do not, so trying to get an idea of, you know, the reduction in speed those flashing signs have.

Dr O'Callaghan: Again, I am not sure about that. That would normally be a job for the Office of Road Safety that sort of research. It is funded by the Office of Road Safety and they would normally be responsible for research around that, but I am happy to find out whether there is anything available.

The CHAIR: Would your data be available to them in that regard so they could then cross-match it to the schools? Anything you have got on it I would be appreciative of and we can all make it part of A17.

Mr Hodges: Is it just school zones we are talking about?

The CHAIR: Yes, the 40 kilometre zones in front of schools.

Dr O'Callaghan: When school is operating?

The CHAIR: Yes, and if you are able to then give us an idea of whether they had flashing signs or not, whether you have got it broken down to that detail would be appreciated.

There are a number of vehicles stopped and a number of vehicles that are unlicensed; are you able to give us any statistics about the number of vehicles that you have interactions with and the number of vehicles that are actually unlicensed? Is that something you are able to provide data on?

Dr O'Callaghan: We can only give you data on how many people we have charged with unlicensed or unregistered vehicles. What I can tell you is that with the advanced traffic management vehicles we have actually turned off the unlicensed alert because of the high number of alerts that we get that we cannot cope with. There is a whole series of alerts that come on the ATMs, so that could range from people who are wanted for criminal offences, but with the unlicensed vehicles the numbers are too high for us to cope with. These things could just be one day out of licence, so they are still within their renewable period, but we are not able to check all those things.

The CHAIR: Right, so you do not have the capacity to have it so—because there are, I think, the 15 days and then your third party expires and you have three months to return your plates, even beyond the three months when they should have returned their plates, that is not —

Dr O'Callaghan: Up to three months they can simply make a payment and pay the car on the side of the road, so they could theoretically ring up the Department of Transport while we are standing next to them and re-license their vehicle, and we would not charge them anyway.

The CHAIR: Have you ever tried ringing the Department of Transport! Sorry, with all due respect, I guess what I am trying to clarify is: at that point when they should have returned their plates after three months, is that part also still switched off?

Dr O'Callaghan: Yes, only for the advanced traffic management vehicles, which have numberplate recognition cameras. Those vehicles, because there are so many other alerts that come up on the system that are higher priority like registered child sex offenders, people wanted on warrants and a whole range of things, we honestly have to prioritise what we do and pay attention to those things first. The issue is the number of unlicensed vehicles below that. We are not capable of separating out a vehicle that has been unlicensed one day from a vehicle that has been unlicensed 90 days on that system; it just comes up as an alert.

[4.20 pm]

The CHAIR: Is that a sign that we are having an increase in the number of vehicles?

Dr O'Callaghan: I do not know.

The CHAIR: So you do not keep statistics about the number of —

Dr O'Callaghan: No.

The CHAIR: — interactions that you have with vehicles, whether there is a change in the percentage of them that are going past that are unlicensed?

Dr O'Callaghan: No. Bear in mind that we have just given you a response on what we call category A offences, so 90 per cent of all the work the traffic officers do is focusing on category A offences, which are the offences which contribute to road trauma, which unlicensed vehicles do not. There is no indication that there is a link between unlicensed vehicles and road trauma, so 90 per cent of our effort in traffic is on those high-priority offences.

The CHAIR: There seems to be a significant jump in your cash assets you are expecting at the end of this financial year to the historical data; is there a reason for that?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Which page are you looking at, Mr Chair?

The CHAIR: It is page 377. It does jump around; in 2012-13 it was \$79 million; 2013-14 the budget was \$16 million, and it is actually going to be \$46 million. There is about a \$30 million difference between what was in the budget and what you estimated to be your actual. Are you able to tell us what that relates to?

Ms Cardenia: The cash assets are mainly reflective of the cash drawn down by WA Police for capital works. For example, in 2013-14 there was an increase due to the PPC, and 2012-13 you can see it is at \$79 million, so there was a higher level of capital works; whereas in 2014-15 the Perth police complex has been completed, as well as a number of other capital projects.

The CHAIR: So why is it going up for 2013-14 above what your budget predicted?

Ms Cardenia: That is reflecting a slowdown in capital works, or delays for a number of reasons.

The CHAIR: But you would draw it down from Treasury based on the work that is being performed, and then hold it in readiness for payment of the invoices?

Ms Cardenia: It is drawn down based on a projection, but if for any reason there is a delay in the capital works program, WA Police will still retain the cash, obviously without the progression of the capital works program.

The CHAIR: If that is the case then, what is the \$30 million worth of works that has been delayed to cause that jump in the cash assets that you predict to hold at the end of this financial year? Do you know what the capital works are that have been delayed?

Ms Cardenia: Yes; nearly half of that relates to ICT program re-cash flowing from one year to the next; then we had the Perth police complex—there is another \$9 million there. There are a number of other projects of smaller values; for example, west metropolitan district accommodation.

The CHAIR: Does that mean that there are still some payments on the police complex you have not made for that \$9 million? There is still a payment to be made that you do not expect to make before the end of this financial year?

Ms Cardenia: Yes.

The CHAIR: Is there some debate about variations or something in the cost of that?

Ms Cardenia: No. Twelve months after the completion of a construction project it goes into a defects period, so if there is any further work once officers are in place and the office or the infrastructure has been set up, it goes into that phase. So there could still be spending for various reasons.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I wanted to ask about statistics, particularly sanction rates around home burglary. The only place I can think to find a reference—I do not think it helps you—is in your KPIs; rate of offences against property per 100 000, so I will use that as a reference point. In particular I wanted to ask about sanction rates, and I wanted to confirm that the components that make up the sanction rate for verified offences and acceptable outcomes include offender processed, withdrawn, statute-barred and civil or other, so they are the components that go into that definition, if you like. Can I confirm that those are the only components of the sanction rate for verified offences and acceptable outcomes? If the sanction rate for the metropolitan rate area, as I am advised, is currently 8.5 per cent, what proportion of that consists of outcomes that are classified as offender processed?

Mr Hodges: I do not have the figures on me right now; I would have to take that on notice. Are you just talking about home burglaries or dwelling burglaries?

Hon SUE ELLERY: Yes, home burglaries.

Mr Hodges: Are you talking about statewide, not metro?

Hon SUE ELLERY: I was going to ask for other regions as well. The information I have been given is that in the metro area the sanction rate for home burglaries is currently 8.5 per cent. Of that 8.5 per cent, I am asking how much of that is within that “offender processed” category?

Mr Hodges: The reason you do not find it in the budget papers is that we have moved away from that KPI. The reason we have moved away from that KPI is that we do not find it as reliable, if you like, as a source of management information as the one we have moved to, which is the one you indicated which is the crime rates. The reason we have done that is that we can direct our effort at an offender that will affect the crime rates, so if we take one offender off the street they might bring the crime rates down significantly; whereas we could go for three or four offenders, which is the sanction rate KPI, and they may not have the same effect on the crime rate because we may have a prolific offender. We may only charge them with one offence—we may have insufficient evidence, which is not a sanction—and we may have insufficient evidence to charge them, but we may suspect them of doing multiple offences; I am talking many, many tens of burglaries. That is why we have moved away from that as a reliable source of management information, and we think that the crime information is more useful as an indicator. Certainly I can provide that, but it would have to be supplementary on the actual sanction rates.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Is it accurate then to say, based on that explanation, that sanction rates falling is not necessarily a measure of crime rates going one way or the other?

Mr Hodges: I can reliably inform you that crime rates, particularly property crime, have been dropping significantly for the last couple of years. We will publish those in the next annual report, but they have been dropping significantly for the last number of years. The mentality of police now is to target those offenders that will give us the greatest return on the crime rates.

The CHAIR: Did you want supplementary information on that?

Hon SUE ELLERY: Yes, please.

[*Supplementary Information No A18.*]

Hon SUE ELLERY: What is the rate of conviction for home burglaries? You can take that on notice, too, if you do not have that.

Mr Hodges: We do not monitor that piece of information.

Hon SUE ELLERY: The AG?

Mr Hodges: Yes, the AGs.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I might ask him that question in another forum then.

The CHAIR: I think we will bring that to an end.

The committee will forward any additional questions it has to you via the minister in writing in the next couple of days, together with the transcript of evidence, which includes the questions you have taken on notice. Responses to these questions will be requested within 10 working days of receipt of the questions. Should you be unable to meet this due date, please advise the committee in writing as soon as possible before the due date. The advice is to include specific reasons as to why the due date cannot be met. I note that there are some there that may take time to collate, but if you can provide those you can while you are gathering the others and just seek a deferral of those you cannot provide in the time. If members have any unanswered questions, I ask them to submit these to the committee clerk at the close of the hearing. Again, on behalf of the committee can I thank you all very much for your attendance today.

Hearing concluded at 4.28 pm
