

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

2012–13 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE
TAKEN AT PERTH
TUESDAY, 6 JUNE 2012**

**SESSION THREE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE**

Members

**Hon Giz Watson (Chair)
Hon Philip Gardiner (Deputy Chair)
Hon Liz Behjat
Hon Ken Travers
Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich**

Hearing commenced at 7.02 pm

HON PETER COLLIER, MLC

Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Police, examined:

DR KARL O'CALLAGHAN

Commissioner of Police, sworn and examined:

MR CHRIS DAWSON

Deputy Commissioner, sworn and examined:

MR GARY DREIBERGS

Assistant Commissioner, Professional Development, sworn and examined:

MR MICK DE MAMIEL

Director of Finance, sworn and examined:

MR GREG ITALIANO

Executive Director, sworn and examined:

MR GARY LORD

Director of Asset Management, sworn and examined:

MR CRAIG WARD

Assistant Commissioner, Business Technology, sworn and examined:

MR JON TUTTLE

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Judicial Services, sworn and examined:

MR SHAUN HODGES

Director, Strategy and Performance, sworn and examined:

The CHAIR: On behalf of the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, I welcome you all to the hearing this evening. Before we begin, I am required to ask the public servants to either take an oath or affirmation.

[Witnesses took the oath or affirmation.]

The CHAIR: You have all signed a document entitled "Information for Witnesses". Have you read and understood that document?

The Witnesses: Yes.

The CHAIR: The hearing this evening 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. We appreciate your assistance this evening.

These proceedings are being recorded by Hansard. A transcript of your evidence will be provided to you. It will greatly assist Hansard if, when referring to the *Budget Statements* volumes or the

consolidated account estimates, members give the page number, the item, the program, the amount and so on in preface to their questions. If supplementary information is to be provided, I ask for your cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the committee clerk within 10 working days of receipt of the questions. Should you be unable to meet this deadline, please advise the committee clerk immediately.

The committee reminds agency representatives to respond to questions in a succinct manner and to limit the extent of personal observations. For the benefit of members and Hansard, I ask the minister to introduce his advisers to the committee and for that introduction to include the full name, contact address and the capacity in which the witness appears before the committee.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: We are scheduled to sit until 9.30 pm. I ask members to indicate if they have questions. I also indicate to members that as Chair, my role is to give first priority to committee members, then to the lead speakers from each party, and finally, other members. Members, please indicate if you have questions.

Hon KATE DOUST: Minister, you may not be able to answer this but the commissioner may be able to provide the answer. I refer to page 489. I am specifically looking at the last line on that page, “Efficiency Dividend”. I suppose I will give you a minute to find it.

Hon PETER COLLIER: How are we going to fund it?

Hon KATE DOUST: No; that is not my question, minister.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Sorry; that is what I thought you said.

Hon KATE DOUST: That might be your question, but that is not mine.

That dividend is listed as escalating up to \$59.5 million in 2015–16. I am wondering if you are able to provide any examples of from where the money will be cut. I understand that in the estimate sessions in the other place, the police minister said that cuts will not be in the front line. I am wondering also what other line items or sections are not front line?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I will ask the commissioner to respond.

Dr O’Callaghan: The minister has given us instructions that by July we are to have listed a series of savings or efficiencies that will contribute to the achievement of the efficiency dividend. Those line items have not yet been identified and finalised. They are not due to the minister until next month. There is quite a lot of work being done around that. The instructions from government were quite clear: we are not to affect front-line services. One of the difficulties with policing is it is always difficult to specify what is a front-line service and what is not a front-line service —

Hon KATE DOUST: That is actually my next question. Can you give us some examples of how you define a “front-line service”?

Dr O’Callaghan: A front-line service is anything that contributes to policing in the front line— investigation, patrol, response to calls et cetera. The sorts of things we will have to look at to achieve the efficiency dividend—these are only ideas at the moment—are things like the leasing of buildings, for argument’s sake. Those sorts of things that do not actually contribute to a front-line service but in some way are a support part of the agency.

Hon KATE DOUST: Now that you are going through this round again—you have already had to deal with achieving efficiency cuts in the last couple of years—what savings did the police service achieve after the government’s first round of the efficiency dividend? What sorts of changes did you have to make at that point to achieve that dividend?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I will ask Mr Italiano to respond to that.

Mr Italiano: The majority of the first efficiency dividend, which I think is known as the three per cent efficiency dividend, the quantum of the dividend was achieved in a number of ways but the primary contribution to that amount was the conversion of 150 additional police officers to auxiliary officers during the life of that additional program, which we are still in the midst of. That conversion of 150 police officers for 150 auxiliary officers was a significant contributor to achieve the savings over the forward estimates. There was a range of other initiatives around some vehicle costs, administration costs, travel, and asset replacement issues, but the largest single contributor was in fact that initiative.

Hon KATE DOUST: Can we have a look at perhaps the Perth watch-house as an example. I understand that in February 2009 the Perth watch-house was staffed by 59 sworn officers, including one senior sergeant, 10 sergeants and 48 constables. It also had two unsworn officers. This information was provided by the police minister from question on notice 2532 on 20 April 2010. What is the staffing of the Perth watch-house now and what savings have been achieved?

[7.10 pm]

Hon PETER COLLIER: Mr Tuttle will respond to that.

Mr Tuttle: The Perth watch-house is currently staffed by 71 staff—a mixture of custody officers, auxiliary officers and some police sergeants.

Hon KATE DOUST: So how many police sergeants are there currently?

Mr Tuttle: I am not exactly sure at that point in time. There are five shifts, and there is at least one per shift.

Hon KATE DOUST: Okay. How many auxiliary officers currently are working there?

Mr Tuttle: The rest are auxiliary officers.

The CHAIR: I have Hon Robin Chapple.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I really want to touch on the issue of policing externally to deal with certain issues, such as CHOGM and, more recently, the activities at James Price Point. Can you advise me what is the normal complement of officers at the Broome locality?

Dr O'Callaghan: We do not have the exact numbers for the Broome district itself, but Broome is about 40 officers if you factor in the police station, detectives and the support services in Broome itself.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Thank you. Obviously there have been increases in policing in the area dating back to—I think the first question that I asked in relation to this was on Tuesday, 16 August 2011, where you indicated that a further \$540 000 as of 07/09/11 had been spent on providing extra policing to Broome, and subsequently we have heard the minister talk about \$1 million for the latest round of exercises up there. You might need to put this on notice, but I am wondering if you have any idea of current costs associated with the extra policing in Broome associated with the James Price Point development?

Dr O'Callaghan: My understanding, and I do not have the final figures, is it is \$900 000 for the most recent exercise in Broome—or the most recent deployment of police officers—to deal with the James Price Point issue. So the extra cost of policing that is about 0.9 of a million.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: If I may put a question on notice, then, could I ask for a complete breakdown of the extra costing since extra officers have been placed at various times in Broome for this process? I understand there have been officers from different aspects of the police force. So I would really like to know, which departments, what was the costing, and what were the numbers associated with the development since the decision was made to actually put extra police up there.

Dr O'Callaghan: Just so that I am clear about what information we are providing —

Hon PETER COLLIER: So you are talking about specific costs, are you?

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Costs and staffing—numbers, people, staff, agencies or departments of the police force which they came from.

Dr O’Callaghan: Is this to do with the most recent deployment at James Price Point?

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: No; the deployment at James Price Point since the development was identified as going ahead there.

Dr O’Callaghan: This is above and beyond the normal Broome contingent?

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: That is correct. As I say, if we go back to question on notice 4505, there was an indicative figure that approximately \$540 000 had been spent as at 07/09/11 on providing extra policing. So I really would like to know what it has cost over the whole. I am imagining that if we are bringing that into the more recent \$900 million—not \$900 million; \$900 000—that we are actually looking at \$1.5 million to \$2 million, something along those lines, over the process. So I am really trying to get to the bottom of that if I could.

[*Supplementary Information No C1.*]

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Going further on, there have been a number of questions which the minister has answered over time in relation to these issues. More important, I really want to turn to the answer from the Minister for State Development in relation to an officer of the police force being seconded to Woodside. Sorry. I am just looking for the question. The Premier indicated that a permanent officer from the Office of State Security and Emergency Coordination in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in December 2009 sought approval of the director general’s department to proceed on annual and long service leave, to be followed by 12 months’ leave without pay, to take up the position of crisis management coordinator with Woodside. I believe that person to be Kristine Leo, and I really want to know what communication the department has been having with Kristine Leo since that permission to go on extended leave has occurred.

Dr O’Callaghan: Kristine Leo resigned from the WA Police. She is not a police officer any more. She works for Woodside.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Well, okay. When the Premier answered the question, she had actually sought extended leave at that stage.

Dr O’Callaghan: I do not know that we have ever approved extended leave for Kristine Leo. She resigned and went to work for Woodside.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Can I pass the answer to the question across the floor, if I may?

Dr O’Callaghan: None of it makes any sense to us.

The CHAIR: Does the member have a further question?

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Just in that regard, has the department been having any communication with Kristine Leo over the allocation of extra police to that area, in her role either as a former member of the police force or indeed as Woodside’s security chief?

Dr O’Callaghan: Well, not that I am aware of, but I will just check with the deputy to see if he knows anything.

Mr Dawson: I have not had any personal contact with Kristine Leo. She is a permanent employee, as I understand, of Woodside—a former member. I have read the documentation you have provided. I am personally unaware of any leave that she was provided with. She told me, and we accepted her resignation, so she took up other employment. So while I have not personally had any contact with her since that time, there may well have been other officers that she may have discussed matters with, but that would be in her capacity with Woodside.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Thank you for that, and thank you, Madam Chair. Could I ask a supplementary on that? Could we just find out if there has been communication between Kristine and members of the WA police force, and in what capacity?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am not quite sure how you would establish that.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: The police would know.

Hon PETER COLLIER: How?

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Well, if they have had conversation with her —

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am just not quite sure how you would establish that amongst the thousands of police officers.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I doubt whether it would be through every rank and file officer. I am assuming that her rank—her former rank—would mean that she would be talking at a strategic level with upper echelons of the police.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I think that is a hypothetical. I am not quite sure how we can establish that. If you have got some specific officers, I would like to suggest we could give it a go, but I just do not see how we can answer that question.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I do not have that. I mean, it is interesting for us to find out the level of strategic decisions taken by the police force in relation to these issues and whether negotiations or communication with Woodside was involved in any of that decision making.

[7.20 pm]

Hon PETER COLLIER: No. She is not a member of the police force.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I understand that.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I do not know how we could ascertain whether or not she has spoken to any police officers.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I am not assuming that she has spoken to any police officers.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am sorry; I thought that was your question.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I am assuming that she spoke to senior police officers in her role as the security officer for Woodside.

Hon PETER COLLIER: The police certainly are not aware of the situation.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: That is fine. If we find out different, that will be great. I do not think I then have a supplementary question.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I want to refer to page 489 under “Major Spending Changes” and specifically the fourth line item, which is “Hoon and No Motor Driver’s License Suspension”, but it is mainly the hoon issue. I understand from a question that we got back from the estimates on 21 November 2011 that the number of cases where a vehicle had been confiscated without it being driven by the owner was 5 001. That seems incredibly high to me. Commissioner, I wonder whether you could shed some light on that.

Hon PETER COLLIER: We can make a comment, which is that we simply do not have the numbers.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I can give the minister the answer that I received.

Dr O’Callaghan: There is a view that that number is not accurate. It seems very high to us as well. I am not sure what was interpreted when that question was answered, but we do not believe it was 5 001 without an owner. Are you saying the question was: how many do I believe were confiscated that were not being driven by the owner at the time?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: That is right.

Dr O’Callaghan: The information I am getting from Mr Italiano—and he believes the same as I do—is that that figure is not correct.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I am assuming that if it is not correct, it is accidentally not correct rather than intentionally not correct. I wonder whether you can take that back on notice and perhaps provide us with an amended answer. If I can have that back, that would be great.

[*Supplementary Information No C2.*]

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: In relation to improving the behaviour of people who drive, I want to refer to the six security cabinets that have been installed on the freeway.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am listening.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Are there six security cabinets installed on the freeway?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Mr Italiano.

Mr Italiano: I will do my best to provide an answer. When they are called “security cabinets”, it is in the context that they are those cabinets that are capable of housing a speed camera. The speed cameras that fit into the cabinets to which you are referring are those such as the one that has been installed adjacent to Karrinyup Road on the Mitchell Freeway, which was the first fixed site. That cabinet is capable of taking the existing camera that we use for mobile speed operations. The way in which that can be deployed is that the cabinet may or may not have a camera in it, but obviously it is capable of being rotated between locations. There is a plan to install at other fixed locations. Unfortunately, I do not have all those locations in front of me this evening but there are, I believe, other locations on the freeway under consideration.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: So how many others are you intending to add to these six cabinets that are there?

Mr Italiano: The best answer I can provide is that there is—the current proposal is not to put six cameras in six cabinets but to rotate the existing camera throughout those cabinets.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Okay. How many cameras are there on the freeway at any one time?

Mr Italiano: The speed on the freeways can be monitored by mobile cameras in the back of our vans or on tripod deployment, but more commonly these days for operator safety we use the vans to deploy the mobile cameras. Again, I would not want to provide inaccurate information, so I am not sure that there are any other fixed sites that are operational at this time, other than the location at Karrinyup Road on the Mitchell Freeway.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I wonder whether you could provide us with the revenues that were generated from those cameras on the freeway over the past two financial years. Is it possible to do that?

Mr Italiano: We know the number of infringements we know and we could provide the member with the revenue.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Can you provide that to us now?

Mr Italiano: No, I do not think that is here this evening, so I cannot.

[*Supplementary Information No C3.*]

Mr Italiano: To clarify, obviously we can deploy mobile cameras on the freeways as well, and do. Is that also intended with respect to the question?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: All cameras. If you want to give me the split then from all cameras—mobile and not mobile—that is fine too. We will accept that as another supplementary question, Madam Chair.

Hon PETER COLLIER: It is not in the budget papers because it goes to the road trauma trust account. That is why it is not there.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: That is okay, but I did not ask where it went to, in all due respect. All I asked was: how much money did it generate? That is really what I am asking for. Firstly, the infringement notices and secondly how much revenue do these cameras generate? Where they go to is quite a separate matter.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: I come back to the earlier question asked by Hon Kate Doust about the efficiency dividend on page 489. That sum in relation to the total cost of services, a bit further up the page, is about two per cent. When it gets across to the 2015–16 forward estimates, my calculation is that it is roughly 4.5 per cent of the total cost of services. The efficiency dividend being sought from Western Australia Police rises from two per cent in the proposed budget year to 4.5 per cent three years out. Why is the increase from two per cent to 4.5 per cent being requested?

Hon PETER COLLIER: It was a direction from the Treasurer. That was the direction the Treasurer gave.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: It is a direction from the Treasurer. Can I go back then to what I understand to be the case that it is not meant to take anything out of the front-line services of police? Do you have a breakdown of what proportion of the \$1.177 billion cost of services is front-line services to non-front-line services—just approximately? Is it 50–50, 60–40 or something like that?

[7.30 pm]

Dr O’Callaghan: I do not have that information with me. I think somewhere around about 75 per cent of the police budget is tied up in salaries. Those salaries are split between police officers, auxiliary officers and public servants who provide support. The rest is tied up in all sorts of what you might call discretionary and non-discretionary funding, including leasing of vehicles, leasing of buildings, overtime—a whole range of different things. But I do not have the breakdown that you require, and that is quite a difficult thing to achieve.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Okay. I presume the breakdown is going to have to occur if it has been requested of the police that this efficiency dividend is only to be taken from non-frontline services. Really the point I am getting to is: if I assume—I know this is just by example—that the \$1.177 billion is half front-line and half non-frontline, those numbers of the efficiency dividend become four per cent and nine per cent. That is a very, very big cut of any portion of costs. How realistic is this?

Dr O’Callaghan: Sorry, what was the question?

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: How realistic is it to have a four per cent, in this next financial year, cut in the non-frontline service area of expense? How realistic is it to have a four per cent cut on that, and then extending out to 2015–16, a nine per cent cut in that share of the non-frontline expenses? That is, to my mind, a big cut.

Dr O’Callaghan: I think you are right; it is a large cut. No-one is pretending that it is going to be an easy thing to do, so a lot of work has to be done. What we will do is we will put up a list of possible savings and possible ways of achieving this to the Minister for Police and ultimately he will have to make a decision about whether he wants to implement those or not.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: I think you might be out in tents! That is the first part. What I would like to ask as a supplementary question is that I want an approximate breakdown of what proportion of the \$1.177 billion in the next financial year is front-line and what is non-frontline.

The CHAIR: I assume you would rather take that on notice?

Dr O’Callaghan: Yes.

[*Supplementary Information No C4.*]

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: On page 491, under “Increases in Demand for Services”, the second sentence states —

Mining industry developments, protest activity from Issue Motivated Groups, a new regional prison and detention centre require increased policing effort.

My question is: how is it that expenditure from the police budget is being made for a new regional prison and detention centre, should that not be Corrective Services?

Dr O’Callaghan: The construction of a detention centre and a prison brings with it a series of attendant problems. So, for argument’s sake, we expect the prison that is currently being built in Derby to attract a range of people into town who do not live there, who are coming into town with their families to visit people who are in prison, who will have nowhere to go when they get there and nowhere to reside. We think that that will require an increased policing effort, whether that is a social effort or whether that is a policing-type response. Similarly, while the detention centre in a place like Curtin is not necessarily high risk, we do have to have a preparedness in the area in case there is an incident.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Okay, so in a sense it is a referred expense as a result of the social movement due to the physical building. The other question I have —

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Can I just ask a supplementary on that, if I may?

The CHAIR: That is very cheeky, but yes you can, Hon Robin Chapple.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: In relation to the extra policing associated with the establishment of the new prison at Derby, do you expect to see extra officers in residence in Derby as a result of that?

Dr O’Callaghan: That is still to be largely decided. You will be aware that the Derby police station has recently been refurbished. It has been refurbished, first, because the facility was old and not fit for purpose and, second, to increase its capacity in case we do need to increase the number of police officers in Derby. We will have to make an assessment based on what does happen when the regional prison opens up there and whether we see an increase in crime and other social issues, and then we will make a decision at that point in time. So, the decision has not yet been made to actually increase the numbers.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Have the police in this regard had any communication with the Department of Corrective Services about the provision of accommodation or hostel accommodation for the expected number of people who, as you say, might end up coming into Derby because of relatives in that new prison?

Dr O’Callaghan: I think Corrective Services are well aware of the issue and we would regard that part of the response as Corrective Services rather than police, but they are well aware of it.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: My next question is in relation to strategy and performance. I just wonder, in the —

Hon PETER COLLIER: Is this still page 491, is it?

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Actually, I pick it up from Mr Shaun Hodges’s responsibilities as being one of the participants. Really, what I was interested in asking—and it will be in relation to the outcomes which we expect from the police force—is: what are the weakest points between what you are trying to achieve as a strategy and the performance? What are the weakest two or three strategies you have based on the performance, on the outcomes, which we are talking about, and what new thinking is going into strategy to try and fix it? I hope that is not an unfair question.

Mr Hodges: That probably is unfair. I am just trying to make sure I understand the question. You are looking at page 492, are you?

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: On the outcomes, yes. My question is a general question based on the outcomes which we are trying to achieve as a police force. My question is: where are we the weakest in terms of what we are trying to achieve strategically based on what outcomes we are getting?

Mr Hodges: I do not want to seem stupid, but I really do not understand. From time to time, we have a range of strategic initiatives going on within the police service; for instance, the summer crime strategy was one that we have just been through. As we identify any issues, it might be a crime-related issue or a community crime prevention-related issue through the strategic crime prevention council, wherever we see issues we will then go and address them. I monitor, for instance, the performance of police, I monitor the crime rates and I also monitor the performance of police in relation to sanction rates and so on. I report back every month and if I identify that there is some significant movement within one of those areas, then I will speak to the commissioner and deputy commissioner through our state tasking coordination meeting every month and identify that as an issue, which will then be resolved through the state tasking coordination meeting.

Dr O'Callaghan: I suppose there are a number of areas where strategy and performance differ a little bit. I suppose if we just look at the area of crime reduction—which, by the way, is not actually one of our KPIs but is something that the police always get asked about—one of the things that is, I think, challenging us in trying to make a significant impact on crime in Western Australia are social issues. You have heard me talk about them a lot publicly—juvenile crime being one, alcohol and drug use being another and the third one being antisocial behaviour. Now, a lot of the solutions in dealing with these sorts of things do not lie in the hands of police; they lie in the hands of non-government agencies and a number of other government agencies. We also have what I believe is an unacceptably high rate of recidivism or repeat offending in Western Australia. For us to deal with that effectively and actually impact on it so it has an impact on the crime rate, there are a whole range of activities and support that other government agencies have to provide, whether that is Corrective Services or whether it is Education or whether it is Child Protection, to be able to deal with these issues.

[7.40 pm]

I will give you an example of where we have had to enlist the support of Child Protection to actually reduce crime; you will probably remember the debate over summer about the safe place strategy and about the numbers of juveniles—quite young children I will call them—on the streets of Perth late at night. We started our own strategy there to be able to pick up kids in the early hours of the morning who were unsupervised and on the street. Some of these children were as young as nine, but the average age was coming in at 13 or 14 years old, and we co-opted other government agencies to help us deal with those kids. Over the three months of the summer safe place strategy we intercepted 484 children just in Burswood, Victoria Park and the northern part of what we call the south eastern corridor precinct. Of those, 81 went through the safe place, so the others were all returned to some sort of responsible adult. That accounts for a significant amount of police time when you bear in mind that some of these kids would have had to have been returned to Armadale or Joondalup or Rockingham; there is quite a bit of police time tied up in just carting these kids around. Eighty-one of them went through the safe place because we could not find a responsible adult, and a small percentage of them could not be placed at all. These are the sorts of problems we are encountering in terms of crime reduction, which, to some degree, are within our ambit and beyond our ambit as well. They require—if you are going to achieve all your KPIs—a lot of other NGO and government agency intervention if we really are going to attack this problem properly.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: I have a follow-on question. That is very interesting to hear, but it is not news—we know there has to be much more than the police doing this. But is there a structure

you have in mind to try to make this coordination of the different agencies work, so that we can preempt the social problems either earlier or in support of everything moving in the same direction rather than in conflicting ways sometimes?

Dr O’Callaghan: Last year the Minister for Police reconstituted the Crime Prevention Council. The Crime Prevention Council has most of what you would call the heads of the human services agencies on it. That includes Justice, Corrective Services, Police, Education—those sorts of agencies. That is a forum where the CEOs come together, and the focus for this year will be exactly what I have been talking about—that is, looking at ways of providing a joined-up response to juvenile crime. I also know that Premier and Cabinet as an agency is interested in coordinating a joined-up government response to this problem.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Have you considered including in that group of people local governments, because they are the ones who know their communities best? We all know each community is different, and therefore what you have to apply is different. Centralised bodies tend not to know what goes on on the ground that well. Have you thought of somehow galvanising local government to do that?

Dr O’Callaghan: I think the answer to that is yes, and it is safe to say there are quite a number of good programs for young people out there that provide some sort of intervention. One of our biggest problems in this state is the number of priority prolific offenders we have to deal with. We believe that if you include the adults, that number is about 1 300, but if you just take out the children, it is about 400. These are serious repeat recidivist offenders who require what we would consider urgent priority intervention, whether from Police or other agencies or the courts. They are occupying the minds of many of the DGs at moment because they are the kids who are causing most of the havoc around the streets. But there are a lot of other programs at local government level and being provided by NGOs that deal with the next layer down; these are kids who need places to go and need some supervision but are not necessarily yet listed as priority prolific offenders.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Can I just get a clarification? Are you saying there are 900 young people in that recidivist category?

Dr O’Callaghan: About 400.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: So, 900 adult offenders?

Dr O’Callaghan: yes.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Can I just ask a question to do with that as well? We tend to talk in terms of that group of young people, and I think the figure the Auditor General used a few years ago was 120. But can you also, amongst that group of 400, identify certain family groups? I say that because in England I have noticed they have moved to what they call the “troubled families model”, and they say there is a certain number of families where the range of issues we have talked about—including interacting with the criminal justice system, child protection, addiction—is most focused. I suppose in the courts they will often talk about that 30 or 40 families in Perth. Would you say that you could identify 30 or 40 families?

Dr O’Callaghan: I think the Police, the child protection department and any family services agency can actually list those 40 people. One of the things that we have done —

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Families, did you say?

Dr O’Callaghan: Families, yes.

One of the things we have done recently is created 20 youth liaison officer positions for the districts around the whole of the Perth metropolitan area and regional Western Australia, specifically to raise the police focus on these issues and to increase the intervention with families and some of these priority prolific offenders; there has been quite a debate about that in the media recently. The underpinning strategy is to create dedicated police officers who just focus on this group of people,

but they connect them with services provided with non-government agencies and other government agencies.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: When we talk about those 40 families, we have some figures on the cost of incarcerating each young person. In England they have done some work to actually look at what the cost of a group of families is. It has been done over a number of years and it has showed that enormous resources have been put in in that fragmented way, with poor outcomes. Do you have any idea, say within your department, of what you might spend on a family as opposed to an individual, if you look at those 40 families?

Dr O’Callaghan: I am not sure that we have those numbers.

Mr Italiano: I doubt we would have them by family; we might have police attendance at certain addresses, for example. I think the point made is very relevant. One of the things that concerns us also is if we have a recidivist offender in a family who has reached what you might call a more mature age, we are very concerned about the impact of that person on younger siblings. Breaking that cycle and bringing together the various services to bear on that family, we think, is incredibly important, and there is some very solid research, both locally and overseas, about that. We are certainly seeking to try to have a family focus with respect to the state crime prevention activity that you will see unfolding in the near future.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I wanted to go back to the final point on the questions you were answering to Hon Philip Gardiner. Commissioner, I think you said a percentage were taken to their homes, a percentage to the safe place, and a small percentage you could not find a place. What happens to the ones you cannot find a place for?

Dr O’Callaghan: We took 81 of them to the safe place. The safe place is conjointly run by Police, DCP and Mission Australia. When we get to those centres, largely the police hand the kids over to Mission Australia and Mission Australia is responsible for placing them. Some of them were placed but they were placed several hours after they were taken to the centre. So, first of all, we had to find a responsible adult and we had to find a responsible adult who was in a condition that they could take care of the kids. As you would understand, some of these families have all sorts of addiction problems et cetera, or violence problems, so we had to find that. A small percentage were referred to hostels for overnight care or for a little longer because they could not be returned to anyone in the short term. I think that number was less than 10 out of the whole 484.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: My major question tonight goes to the road trauma trust account. On page 489 of budget paper No 2 you have got listed there, under “Major Spending Changes”, \$5.2 million and then \$5 million, \$5.8 million, and then \$6.1 million. I am trying to reconcile the minister’s announcement about the money for the road trauma trust fund, because it is significantly more than that \$5 million, and in fact even when I go to the net appropriation determination on page 506, that is suggesting you will be keeping an additional \$15 million this year. I am trying to reconcile how much are you actually getting out of the road trauma trust fund this year; and, why is it not all shown under “Major Spending Changes”?

[7.50 pm]

Dr O’Callaghan: I think this came up in estimates the other day. I will ask the finance director to answer this in a minute. I think there is a split between recurrent and capital, but I will get him to answer that for you.

Mr de Mamiel: Are you asking for 2012–13?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Let us start with 2012–13.

Mr de Mamiel: In recurrent funds, there is \$4 million for increased breath and drug testing; \$900 000 for expansion of drug testing capabilities; \$200 000 for advanced track management vehicle car; \$2.2 million for strategic traffic enforcement project, STEP; and the enhanced speed

enforcement admin costs are \$7.1 million. The total recurrent costs are \$14.4 million. In addition to that, there is one-off capital funding in 2012–13, which is \$3.3 million for advanced traffic management vehicles, cars—that is for the equipment going into those vehicles—and also \$100 000 for a trial based on advanced traffic management for motorcycles.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Why then does your recurrent not show up on page 489? Why does only \$5.2 million of it appear as a major spending change rather than the \$14 million-odd that you just listed?

Mr de Mamiel: The major spending changes are basically put there by Treasury. We do not have much call about what they do and do not put in there. There are obviously other things that they could have put in there but they chose not to.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Are all those things you listed new expenditures for this year?

Mr de Mamiel: That is true, other than STEP.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: If we can go to the asset investment program because I am interested in the issue with the —

Hon PETER COLLIER: Which page is this?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The asset investment program is on page 500. Under “New Works” you have “Fleet and Equipment Purchases—New and Replacement”. Does that include your motor vehicles? If not, where do your motor vehicles appear in the budget?

Mr Lord: Yes, we have a leased fleet and an owned fleet. That particular component will cover our necessary requirements for the owned fleet.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: How many vehicles do you actually lease and how many do you own?

Mr Lord: The approved strength is 1 350. The owned fleet totals around 300. That is made up of not only trucks and light commercial but also trailers, the odd caravan and motorcycles. That makes up the 300 roughly.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That is 300 and you have an approved strength of 1 000, so there are 700 leased vehicles. Is that right?

Mr Lord: No; there are 1 350 approved leased vehicles.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: There are 1 350 approved lease vehicles and 300 owned, so 1 600-odd in total.

Mr Lord: Yes.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Do you have the average cost of a police car and a break-up of the make and models that you have?

Mr Lord: We do. I would not have a full break-up this evening. Around 40 per cent of our leased vehicle fleet are four cylinders and other alternative vehicles—41, I think, at this stage. The rest are made up of six cylinders, predominantly for the operations classes.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Could you take that on notice? Obviously there may be some specialist vehicles so if you could also give us the cost of the average operational police vehicle that is not a specialist vehicle.

Mr Lord: Just to define “specialist”, we do have the six-cylinder operational marked and unmarked vehicles. They are under the lease. Under the owned fleet, we have, as you know, the leased buses. They vary; there is a range of them. Is it the average leased cost or the owned or all of them that you will be looking at?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: If we could get a breakdown of both the leased and the owned, that would be good.

[*Supplementary Information No C5.*]

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Will that include the number of motorbikes that you have?

Mr Lord: We have about 70 motorbikes. Roughly 45 of them are the ones that you see on the road. The others are made up of off-road and various quads et cetera.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: If you could give us the makes and models of the types of bikes in that list, that would be good, and, again, an average cost of the motorbikes. What is the cost of putting a police vehicle on the road? This is both your marked and unmarked vehicles. I assume there is a slightly different cost. What is the additional cost of putting those on the road?

Mr Lord: Would this be your average one or the new ones?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The average one. I assume that new one is covered by that \$3.293 million at the very bottom there. Is that for 20?

Mr Lord: No, there are 48 advanced traffic management vehicles. The vehicles themselves will be leased. They come from the existing fleet. The figure you see there is the fit-out component, which covers both the technology side as well as some of the improvements such as the striping that we put on them, the front seats and a number of other mechanical improvements.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Is that a net figure of what you would normally spend on those vehicles or is that the gross figure of what you are spending on those vehicles?

Mr Lord: That is the gross figure. They work out at roughly \$70 000 each.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: What is the normal cost of fitting out a standard police vehicle that would go out on the road?

Mr Lord: You would be looking at around \$10 000 to \$15 000.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Are you able to give us an exact figure, if you take that on notice?

Mr Lord: Yes.

[*Supplementary Information No C6.*]

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Do you have a regular program? Are you able to tell us how many new vehicles you will get this year and how many you will retire this year?

Mr Lord: The program that you are referring to covers a range of items. We are now calling it the fleet and equipment replacement program. We also have in excess of \$250 million worth of equipment throughout the agency. That program also covers items such as major refurbishments on even our aircraft, replacement of our vessels, not just front-line items but the equipment items. It covers a range of both equipment and fleet. We have, on average, of late probably replaced two to three of our fleet items. It might be a truck and a couple of trailers. As you know, we have had to replace our horse trailers as well as the costs of the major aircraft engines that get done et cetera. We have a pretty good program running with our vessels now as well. It is really a broad program.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Are you able to give us as part of the supplementary information the number of vehicles that you will retire this year and the number that you will purchase?

Mr Lord: Our program for next year is still under consideration. We are hoping to have that up very shortly, but we will be able to.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: If you could include the motorbikes as well.

Mr Lord: Yes.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: As part of the original three per cent efficiency dividend, you were required to reduce, as I recall, the number of police cars as part of that dividend. Are you able to tell us how many you reduced that by and when you finished the reduction, how many you had and how many you currently have?

Mr Lord: I will have to go off memory on this one, if you do not mind. At the time Treasury said that we had 1 450 but that included vehicles in what I call transit. When you have a large fleet of leased vehicles, you have some vehicles coming in and some going out. Our first round was approximately 100 vehicles and they came from the administration and pooling fleet—nothing to do with the front-line vehicles.

[8.00 pm]

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Are you able to take on notice how many you have had in terms of tracking the vehicles over the past three or four years?

Mr Lord: Yes, we could do. We provide that, incidentally, to State Fleet on an annual basis as well.

[*Supplementary Information No C7.*]

Hon KEN TRAVERS: How many vehicles do you have now on the administration side?

Mr Lord: I think it is around 300. I would like to clarify that, but it is around 300. We have around 1 000 operational vehicles.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: If you wanted to cut further as part of the current efficiency dividend you are looking at that 300 if you do not want to touch front-line vehicles?

Mr Lord: Yes. Some of the vehicles I am referring to as well might fall under various other categories, such as the camera vehicles, transport vehicles, things like that. That would be the area we would have to look at, yes.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: If you can you give us a breakdown of that, that would be good. I have another area of questions.

The CHAIR: I might just take a couple from other people and then come back.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: I want to follow up on the line of questioning Hon Kate Doust began with. She may have some more questions to ask about it. I understood you to say one of the major ways you reached the efficiency dividend was by moving to auxiliary police. A question was asked about the number of staff and the different categories at the Perth watch-house. What has been the percentage of auxiliary police at the Perth watch-house in the last couple of months?

Mr Tuttle: In 2007–08 when custody officers were originally introduced, they replaced 80 per cent of the police officers in the watch-house. There were effectively 61 new custody officers appointed and 47 sworn positions returned to the front line who went to various roles around the organisation. For example 21 went into the child abuse sex crime sort of area. As we have progressed we have introduced auxiliary officers in favour of custody officers. Custody officers were the first step along this road and as the model has matured we have gone to auxiliary officers, which provide us with a greater deal of flexibility, not just for work in the watch-house. I am glad I get the chance to speak again because in the first answer I gave I did not differentiate between the custody officer and the auxiliary. No more custody officers are being recruited. When the auxiliary regime was introduced an offer was made whether people wanted to transition over into the auxiliary role. Some did, some did not. As we have natural attrition of custody officers either they leave or go somewhere else or some are transitioned into the sworn ranks of the police service, they are replaced with auxiliary officers. Effectively, apart from a few uniform supervisors and uniform management, the watch-house is run by the auxiliary–custody officer regime.

Hon KATE DOUST: Thank you for clarifying that. I think I recall that you said there were five separate rosters from the watch-house.

Mr Tuttle: Five separate teams.

Hon KATE DOUST: Can you provide us with a breakdown over the last month, for each team, the category of each type of person on that particular roster, be it a sergeant in charge, a sergeant, a

sworn officer, an auxiliary officer or another type of worker who would be there. I appreciate, Madam Chair, that may need to be provided on notice.

[*Supplementary Information No C8.*]

Hon KATE DOUST: Who has the responsibility for organising staffing arrangements in the Perth watch-house?

Mr Tuttle: As in the manning levels?

Hon KATE DOUST: Yes; the day-to-day management of staffing arrangements —

Hon ADELE FARINA: Rosters.

Hon KATE DOUST: — rosters; thank you.

Mr Tuttle: There is a division of judicial services, which is called custodial services, and they run the watch-house.

Hon KATE DOUST: I am curious. I picked up in the media today about this young person who has been spending the last month working in the watch-house. Given you have five rosters obviously with a dedicated team of staff, perhaps, minister, someone may be able to explain how this young person was able to work in the watch-house undetected for a period of a month.

Hon PETER COLLIER: That is still under investigation at the moment so I cannot comment on that incident. There will be comments made accordingly, but at the moment it is still under investigation.

Hon ADELE FARINA: You must be able to say something.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Yes; give us something.

Hon KATE DOUST: There must be some sort of detail.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I cannot at this stage. All I can say to you is that it is still under investigation.

Hon KATE DOUST: Minister, you cannot tell me that somebody turns up for work day after day after day for a month and people have worked there for an extended period of time, one assumes, and nobody notices that he does not stand out; or nobody says to him, “Are you the new person here; what’s your name; what are you doing; have you signed on; have you picked up a pay cheque?” There must be some information you can provide to the public about how this person went undetected in this particular very important workplace.

Hon PETER COLLIER: As I have just said, it is under investigation. It is significant and the information will be forthcoming. But at the moment, because the incident is under investigation, that is all I can offer you.

Hon ADELE FARINA: How long do you expect the investigation to take?

Hon PETER COLLIER: How long is a piece of string? I cannot give you a response to that.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Oh, come on.

Hon KATE DOUST: Oh, minister.

Hon ADELE FARINA: That is a pretty poor response, minister.

Hon PETER COLLIER: That is not being flippant; I cannot respond to that. I am sorry; it is as simple as that.

Hon ADELE FARINA: You have not even sought some advice in terms of answering that question and putting that on the record.

Hon KATE DOUST: Could the commissioner please answer the question?

Hon PETER COLLIER: No, no; I am answering that question. I am telling you that it is still under investigation. It will be as soon as possible.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The government does not support anything under investigation being commented on, is that what you are saying?

Hon PETER COLLIER: No; I am just saying that this incident is under investigation and, it will be forthcoming.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: This is a committee of the Parliament.

Hon ADELE FARINA: What assurance does the community have that this will not happen again during the course of this investigation, which will be as long as a piece of string?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am sure all those things will be discussed at the appropriate time.

The CHAIR: I will give the call to Hon Linda Savage if she has more questions.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: I was going to go off in another direction. Has anyone got more —

The CHAIR: Do you want us to come back to you?

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Yes, if other people want to continue—no?

The CHAIR: I think we have exhausted that particular line of questioning.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Kate, do you have another one?

The CHAIR: I have got the speaker list.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: I have got another question.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I have got heaps of them

The CHAIR: I know you have.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Can I ask my next one?

The CHAIR: Hon Linda Savage, please.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: I want to raise an issue that I raised last year. I asked last year if any dedicated work was being done on the issue of the abuse of OxyContin. I do not know if you recall the answer you gave me, which was that there was not any particular focus on it as yet. I notice that it continues to be reported. Most recently some work has been done by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists addiction section, which said that they felt that the harm being done from prescription drugs now was rivalling that of illicit drugs and that Australia faced what has happened in America in the past 10 years where there is a large black market in OxyContin and that sort of opioid. I wonder, a year later, whether there is some specific focus on that area of drug abuse?

Dr O'Callaghan: No; I would not say there is a specific focus on it. We have a raft of activities going on around organised crime and improvised drug manufacture sites, which used to be called clan labs. They are the major focus for us because they affect the public directly, as you know, and they create a certain level of danger. While we will respond to breaches of the Poisons Act and other types of offences, it is not a particular focus of the WA Police at this time.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Given we have this evidence now that there are concerns about the use of it. As I said, the professor who is chairing this group said that the harm from these medications was now rivalling that of illicit drugs. We know the experience in America. Is it because of lack of resources that you are not able to put some dedicated work into an area like this, which, based on the American experience, is something that will become increasingly a problem in this country, particularly the black market with the sale of prescription drugs such as OxyContin?

[8.10 pm]

Dr O’Callaghan: It is not necessarily lack of resources. Every agency has to prioritise what it does. If you had unlimited resources, you could do everything. The other thing I would like to say about that is that this is one of those areas, like juvenile crime, which does not necessarily fall exclusively into the ambit of police. There is a Drug and Alcohol Office in Western Australia, for argument’s sake, and a whole raft of NGOs and other people who can provide information, support and intervention on those types of offences. It is not all down to police. In fact, this could not be a priority for us based on all of the other drug-related things we have to deal with.

Hon KATE DOUST: Commissioner, over the last three years we have passed through this place three separate pieces of legislation in regard to misuse of drugs, specifically about clan labs. We have seen an increase in fines and other types of penalties associated with people who are engaged in that practice and, more recently, looking at the impact on children in the community. These three pieces of legislation are in place. We continue to see reports on a regular basis in the media about clan labs being discovered and, sadly, in some cases of recent times, more and more cases of children being extracted from those sites. I have a clear view that perhaps what we have put through Parliament has not necessarily had the impact in the community that the government may have hoped for. I am wondering what other strategies are currently being considered by police, or are currently in discussion between the police and the government, to try to reduce the number of clan labs either via other legislative means, through further changes to legislation, or by other methods?

Dr O’Callaghan: A couple of things. Firstly, the comment I would make about the most recent changes to legislation, which include high penalties where children are present on premises, is that it is simply too early to tell what impact that legislation will have. I do not think enough people have been through the system to see what the impact of that is. Over the past couple of years, courts are treating these types of offences more seriously and are more often imposing custodial sentences on people who are manufacturing methamphetamine, which is manufactured in most of these labs. One of the issues we have raised is what you can do to prevent the supply, for argument’s sake, of the key ingredient, which is pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine is most often sourced for small clan labs. If you look at the clan labs in Western Australia, the great majority of them are personal use-type clan labs. They are producing very small amounts of methamphetamine—one gram or less than a gram. Probably one of the most effective things we can do is harden the supply of pseudoephedrine. We have got Project Stop going in Western Australia. It is going in many other states as well, as you know. People who go into a chemist wanting to buy a pseudoephedrine-based product like cold and flu tablets have to produce some ID. We get a list of the most frequent transactors every month. That is something we have our eye on. I spoke to the pharmacy forum last year to encourage them to sell the alternative product rather than pseudoephedrine, so when people come into the shop asking for pseudo-based product, to ask more questions about that. We know in other parts of the world—like New Zealand, and there was an experiment in Oregon, USA, where pseudoephedrine-based products have been banned altogether for over-the-counter sales at pharmacies and are only available on prescription—the number of clan lab situations has dropped quite significantly. One of the things we have put out there is that we might want to try and limit the supply of pseudo. We have not got support from the Pharmacy Guild for that. We have not necessarily had any support across government for it, but it is an option in these circumstances.

Hon ADELE FARINA: I refer to the total appropriation on page 489 of the *Budget Statements*. Of this funding, how many additional sworn police officer FTEs and additional auxiliary officer FTEs will be provided to each of the police stations at Bunbury, Australind and Busselton, and the south west district?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Chris Dawson will respond.

Mr Dawson: The allocation is generally done on an annual basis. We conduct an assessment based on a number of factors—population increases, crime trends, a whole lot of demographic information, and obviously from the local community and local policing. Other than two additional

officers at Australind, the district superintendent has the capability to adjust the staffing levels of the officers within his or her local district. There have recently been two additional officers to Australind because of some increased demands, but there will be some further allocations post-1 July when we have the additional officers to disperse. We have not yet made a determination on those specific other stations that you mention in your question.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Also referring to the total appropriations at page 489, how much of this funding has been allocated to adequately resource Busselton Police Station to provide a 24/7 service?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Chris Dawson will answer.

Mr Dawson: The 24-hour service that we refer to is often, in some senses, misunderstood across the community. Large police centres such as Bunbury, metropolitan centres such as Midland, Cannington et cetera, are what we term 24-hour police stations because they actually maintain a public counter where members of the community can attend at any given hour of the day or night. Centres such as Busselton do not maintain a public counter but they do maintain a 24-hour policing service. There is a distinction —

Hon ADELE FARINA: Just to clarify, I was talking about providing an open counter 24/7, which has been called for by me and the community for a number of years now.

Mr Dawson: There are no present plans to have a public counter open at Busselton on a 24-hour basis. We make those assessments based on demand. We survey the numbers of attendees that are required to go to counters. The raw estimate of police officers required to maintain a front-counter service, or indeed any customer service, is about five FTE per week. Once you take into account two days' weekly leave and the rosters to enable those persons to attend the counter, our deployment model is that we would prefer that those officers not be locked behind the counter simply waiting for customers, but they would be mobile and able to be deployed in vehicles. We have all of the communication equipment. Busselton is part of our digital computer-aided despatch network. They have full capability to be contacted by the community. We would rather they attend at the community's needs as opposed to waiting behind the counter.

Hon ADELE FARINA: The current resourcing at Busselton, is that sufficient for them to provide a 24/7 service, other than the counter? Do you have police on roster 24/7?

Mr Dawson: Yes, we do at Busselton. I have spoken to the district superintendent only in recent times. He advises me that he is satisfied with the current deployment elements within that area, but obviously, like most district superintendents, they are keen for more. We make those allocations post-1 July. As to whether any additional go to Busselton, that will be part of our overall determination across the state.

Hon PETER COLLIER: The commissioner would like to clarify a point made by the assistant commissioner.

Dr O'Callaghan: Just one clarification. Busselton does not run a complete night shift on Sunday and Monday nights, I believe. I was speaking to one of the local members down there the other day and we had this discussion. There are two nights a week when there is not a complete night shift 24-hour rotation. That is something that will be looked at. There is no current allocation being made for that.

Can I make a point about front counters, because this has come up not just for Busselton, but for all sorts of different police stations. We have looked at this fairly closely. About 80 per cent of all the work we did at front station counters up until a couple of years ago was for police clearances and firearms licence applications. None of those is now done at police stations; they are done by Australia Post, which has a better footprint than us all over Western Australia and guarantees to be open between 9.00 and 5.00 every day whatever. We have outsourced all of that. That means there is 20 per cent left of the total volume of front-counter demand that we had a few years ago. Some of

that was about traffic crash reporting. All traffic crashes can now be reported online, so there is even less need to go to a police station. We encourage the community, if they need a police officer, to ring us and we will go to them.

[8.20 pm]

So, for argument's sake, if they have been burgled, if they come home and find something is missing, if their car has been stolen, we encourage them to ring 131444 and we will come to them, rather than have them wander down to any police station in the middle of the night to try and get service, because the service will be dispatched, as the deputy commissioner says, from the vehicle by digital dispatch. So that is why we do not necessarily endorse front station counters at all police stations.

Hon ADELE FARINA: There has been a recent call for six additional fully-sworn police officers at Busselton Police Station so that they can provide a 24/7 service. What I understand from what you are telling me is that if that is considered at all, it would be considered post-1 July, when you have the additional sworn officers duly sworn.

Dr O'Callaghan: There are still a number of allocations to be done, and many decisions have not been made yet, and as you can appreciate, there are significant demands in many parts of the state at the moment.

Hon ADELE FARINA: I want to now turn to the allocation of forensic officer FTEs to the south west district. Can I just have some clarification as to how many forensic officer FTEs are actually allocated to the south west district and if there is any increase to that allocation in this year's budget?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Mr Tuttle will respond to that.

Mr Tuttle: In the south west district, the forensic officers are located in Bunbury. I believe there are three. We have also recently located a sergeant's position down there in relation to our NATA accreditation, which is our National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation, and he will undertake roles in relation to managing case files, case work et cetera, but also be deployable. Equally in the districts what we have are officers who are trained in a Forensic I course, so they are not people who are district forensic investigation officers, but they are a step down. They have a forensic awareness—a basic forensic training—that can go and do the most basic forensic testing. I cannot give you the amount of people off the top of my head in that district that have received that training or in fact —

Hon ADELE FARINA: Can you provide that on notice?

Mr Tuttle: I can, yes.

[Supplementary Information No C9.]

Mr Tuttle: Then obviously from a major crime perspective, should a major incident occur, that would be supplemented from the forensic division in Midland.

Hon ADELE FARINA: I understand that for some time one of those FTE positions has been vacant. Are you aware whether that still remains vacant; and what action is being taken to permanently fill that position?

Mr Tuttle: The way the forensic positions are managed in the organisation is that the forensic division is responsible for the selection and training of the individuals, but the actual positions in the district are owned by the district. So, if the district has a vacancy, they talk to the forensic division and request an officer to be placed in that location. I am not aware of any vacancy existing or any issue being a problem in placing a forensic officer in that location. Having said that, I am not saying that is definitively true, but we can look into that.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Can that be taken on notice as well?

[*Supplementary Information No C10.*]

Hon ADELE FARINA: Also, do you have any stats in relation to how frequently Bunbury needs to call on forensic officers from Perth to come down to the south west to carry out forensic activity because the forensic officers in the south west are fully occupied?

Mr Tuttle: No, I do not. Largely those callouts would be in response to the most serious of matters; for example, homicides and things like that. The vast majority of work undertaken in that district is volume crime work, and they are suitably trained to do that, and really the deployment of officers from the forensic division in Midland would really be in response to a major crime.

Hon ADELE FARINA: But do you have any stats that you can provide for the last 12 months or two years?

Mr Tuttle: I can certainly ask for them. I do not have them with me.

[*Supplementary Information No C11.*]

Hon COL HOLT: I refer to page 501, new works and potentially completed works, police station upgrade program. I just wonder if anything has been done at Bridgetown Police Station and if there is anything planned to be done at Bridgetown Police Station in any of those figures?

Mr Lord: That particular program, as you can see, has been over the past period as well, and, yes, there has been significant work done to the particular station. We have done roof work, and we have done building works, as well as maintenance works. So we have done a fair bit towards that particular station, yes, from that program.

Hon COL HOLT: Can I ask a follow up on that? Are you able to provide me with how much has been spent on Bridgetown Police Station?

Mr Lord: I am just trying to think. I know we did answer one of those recently, but I do not have it on me right now, no. But we can supply that, because we get that question quite often.

[*Supplementary Information No C12.*]

Hon COL HOLT: Thank you. I have a couple of other questions. While we are talking about police resourcing into the south west, obviously you would have received a lot of feedback from the Capel community about police resources there, and while they talk about wanting to have a police station, I think police patrols are a much better option. I am just wondering, and obviously this is an operational matter, but is there any budgetary allocation or resources to increase patrols into the Capel community?

Hon PETER COLLIER: The commissioner.

Dr O'Callaghan: There is no specific allocation in the budget. It is entirely up to the superintendent of the south west district, who is responsible for deploying his resources as he sees the need. I know that he has involved in talking to people down in Capel about some of the concerns they have, so he is well aware of the issue down there. But we have not supplied him with extra money to do that. He will be doing any patrols or increasing patrols from within his budget.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Commissioner, can I just support my colleague from the south west on that case and say that perhaps some additional resourcing to the south west district is absolutely critical at this point in time.

Dr O'Callaghan: Sorry; I did not get that.

Hon ADELE FARINA: Sorry. I was just supporting my colleague and saying that perhaps the commissioner needs to consider some additional funding resourcing to the south west district, because with population growth rates as high as they have been over recent years, and with the continued projection of growth rates, our police are doing a fantastic job in the south west district but they are critically under-resourced and understaffed.

Dr O’Callaghan: Yes, and one of the issues facing us with the south west district is the seasonal increase in demand, which is something we are looking at. It is one thing to put permanent police officers everywhere in the south west, but a lot of the festivals and things that attract people to the south west occur in the summer months, so we are looking at ways of increasing the supply of person hours, if you like, to the south west, so areas like Busselton, Dunsborough and Bunbury, in peak demand times, and then at other times smoothing the profile back to the standard response from police stations. So we are just looking at more creative ways of addressing that issue.

Hon COL HOLT: One more follow-up question—I should have asked this before—in the new works program, can we get a list of stations in regional Western Australia that are being catered for under the new works program of police station upgrades?

Dr O’Callaghan: I think if you go to page 500, you will see the new and replacement police facilities listed there, so halfway down the page, Fitzroy Crossing Police Station, and Mount Magnet Police Station; and you could call Mundijong country or regional, but it is there anyway.

Hon COL HOLT: I see that they are the works in progress. I guess I am going to new works into the future, and besides Bridgetown, which we have talked about —

Hon ADELE FARINA: They are on page 501.

Hon COL HOLT: Where?

Hon ADELE FARINA: The top of page 501.

Hon COL HOLT: No. That is still completed works, is it not?

Hon ADELE FARINA: Yes, you are right; sorry.

Hon COL HOLT: I am pretty sure.

Dr O’Callaghan: There is no capital works for police stations in the forward estimates at all, but I will get Mr Italiano to answer that.

Mr Italiano: That is indeed the case. There are no current new police stations on as new works from this particular budget, and certainly Bridgetown, I visited it personally a couple of times, and it is a station that, whilst we can spend some money to try and address the worst of the issues, the bottom line is that it is a station that requires some replacement, and it has featured highly in our capital priorities, I can assure you.

Hon COL HOLT: I would describe it as Abu Ghraib! I think that might be an over-statement, but it is pretty damn close, I reckon! Thank you.

The CHAIR: There has been a request for a break, so we will take it now.

Proceedings suspended from 8.30 to 8.38 pm

The CHAIR: I give the call to Hon Robin Chapple.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: In relation to the budget paper on page 491—it is only a one-line item—you were talking about the increase in demand for services in mining industry development protection activity from issue-motivated groups. In that regard, I really want to try to find out a couple of things. Clearly, up at James Price Point we now have three independent security corporations working in that area, we have hostile environmental services, Lockforce Consultancy International Pty Ltd and Woodside’s team of 20 security people headed up by Kristine Leo. Obviously, there needs to be some coordination of those activities with the police force. Is this what is proposed or understood by that extra expenditure that you are looking at in the increased demand in services? Also, a question was asked previously about the training you had supplied to Lockforce, where we got some answers in relation to that. I am trying to find out —

Dr O’Callaghan: Can you clarify the question?

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I will give you the question number. It was a question without notice on 24 May 2012 —

Hon PETER COLLIER: Can we get a copy of that?

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I will need to refer to that again. What I am trying to get at is the training of private security forces in these matters as identified on 26 September 2011 regarding conducting an audit by the licensing enforcement unit. Is that part of this extra expenditure you are seeing in interacting with private security firms in developing audits for them?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Mr Dawson.

Mr Dawson: In regard to the training that police provide, particularly through the licensing enforcement unit, that is really designed to enforce and educate particularly security providers across the state in terms of their responsibilities under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act and the legislation to ensure that there is adequate training supervision for security agents and guards. It is not particularised for any particular security company, but under the legislation the licensing officer, who is the Commissioner of Police, delegates down to the licensing enforcement unit. Their broad remit is to ensure that there is adequate coverage for their duties under that. It also extends to licensed premises and publicans, for instance, to ensure that they have adequate crowd control measures to ensure the safety of patrons et cetera at licensed premises.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Thank you. As part 2 of that question, an answer given on another date—28 March 2012—was that there was a management of coordinated transport of police and critical infrastructure unit staff to and from James Price Point. In that regard, what role does a private security firm have in the transportation of police and others to and from sites? It sort of blurs the area of responsibility. I think that is what the community up there is becoming concerned about.

Mr Dawson: There is one instance—I know the matter you are referring to—when two officers from our critical infrastructure unit did attend at that locality as part of their normal duties in advising the business sector that have responsibilities for critical infrastructure, so whether it be a petrochemical plant or whatever industry that has particular hazards around critical infrastructure, that particular unit bears responsibilities which come under the auspices of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and the need to ensure that we have national security safeguards in place. We liaise with critical infrastructure companies to ensure, for instance, pipeline safety and that sort of infrastructure. On one instance—it is not a matter that we have either encouraged; in fact, we actively discouraged—two officers did accompany in a company vehicle to attend at that locality. I am advised and briefed that the only reason they did that is they were officers based in Perth who flew to Broome to attend that location for the purpose of critical infrastructure inspections but they did not have access to any police vehicles from Broome because they were being otherwise used for policing duties. They also could not source any hire vehicles, so they took a local individual decision to get in a company vehicle. We have since advised those officers to reflect on doing that because it brings perceptions of conflict of interest. It is not a matter that we encourage; in fact, we actively discourage it. We are advised by the officers that they took that decision because it was the only practicable way of getting there.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Thank you, just two more questions around that. Obviously, I understand critical infrastructure—the need at places like Woodside, the North West Shelf gas facility, Pluto and the major areas. Given that there is no infrastructure there at all, what was the need to have critical infrastructure people there?

Mr Dawson: While I do not have their specific requirements on that particular locality, I have been briefed on the proposal in which there is a final investment decision likely in the middle of next year. Given the scale of the survey work and the proposal by the consortium to build very large infrastructure, the officers were attending by way of preliminary scoping to make an assessment on

what may be some future needs. But I do not disagree with you; there is no critical infrastructure there now, but they were doing some preparatory work.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: The third question around that issue: in this particular instance who asked the critical infrastructure people to go there? Was that an administrative decision by the police, or was it a request from Woodside to evaluate the critical infrastructure?

Mr Dawson: I do not have that information with me, but I could certainly seek that by way of supplementary.

[Supplementary Information No C13.]

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Finally, we have already talked about the former officer Kristine Leo. In terms of the decisions by the police commissioner to deploy extra staff to there, we have had a number of answers, both in this place and the other place, around the issue of deployment, and there seems to be a lack of clarity. This most probably gives us the opportunity to clarify once and for all: who asked for the extra police resources, both in the initial appraisal and subsequent appraisals to go to assist at the James Price issue?

Mr Dawson: The district superintendent is responsible for all policing in the Kimberley district. That superintendent provided an assessment by way of planning in the sense that the activities that took place in 2011 had resulted in a number of requests—some 28, 30 complaints—requiring police attendance. Police had over 100 days of attendance at that locality. Due to numbers of criminal offences that were taking place, police arrested 51 persons, they summonsed people on four occasions, 65 traffic infringements and 83 move-on notices. So with the large impost on Broome policing in particular, in which the travel by way of road is in excess of one hour, there is no infrastructure out there, there were some communication challenges, there is no rest or areas for sustained patrolling, the local superintendent conducted quite comprehensive planning to address the numbers of complaints and to ensure the safety of all persons. I stress that is the safety of all persons; the role of police is to ensure that there are no persons or property that are damaged. So, the need for police there was not only based on a complaint-driven process but also to ensure that all persons, be they workers, protesters or onlookers, would not be injured. There were people running in front of heavy machinery, locking themselves onto trucks and heavy machinery and moving in front of heavy machinery. Some of those people were infirm and some were children. The local superintendent was quite concerned about the safety of all persons, so he took a decision, he put a planning document together, which went through the chain of command and it was subsequently approved through the assistant commissioner, myself and the Commissioner of Police.

[8.50 pm]

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I am referring to page 489 of the budget papers and major spending changes, specifically the “Efficiency Dividend”, which is also referred on the following page as the “Contribution to Responsible Financial Management”, which is a bit strange because it seems that it is trying to do two things at once. Over the forward estimates it is anticipated that savings worth \$160.3 million will need to be found from a department that has already given up considerable funding over previous years. What I would like for the agency to take on notice is the efficiency dividend savings for the following years: 2009–10; 2010–11; and 2011–12. That is, all the cuts that have been incurred by the agency during those financial years, and where those savings have been harvested from, whether it is vehicles, staffing or cuts to programs. I would want, on behalf of the committee, an itemised schedule of all those savings harvested during those financial years.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Was that 2009-2010 and 2010-11?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: It was 2009–10, 2010–11, and 2011–12. I do not suppose at this time, minister, it is possible for—I can ask, but I know I probably will not get anything—me to get the likely savings that will be harvested from which areas for the financial year of 2012-13?

However, if would you be so good as to allow the commissioner, perhaps, to give us some indication of where those savings might be harvested from, that would be very much appreciated.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am always very accommodating to you, Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich, I really am, and I appreciate your very relevant question. Can I say that we will be very accommodating and we will provide for you 2009-2010, 2010-11 and 2011-12; and, yes, I will give permission for the commissioner to respond on behalf of 2012-13.

[Supplementary Information No C15.]

Dr O'Callaghan: As I explained earlier, that is a work in progress. In the estimates hearing the other day, the Minister for Police said that when the efficiency dividend savings that have identified have been identified and accepted by him, he would make them available at that stage.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: In view of the fact that we cannot have them at the moment, can I just refer to another matter, and it was in part raised by you when you spoke of the 484 children. Today we heard from the education department that 11 000 children on any one day are at severe risk of not attending school; they are non-attenders and they are chronic non-attenders. Of course, there is a much larger cohort who attends for 90 per cent of the time and does not attend for, perhaps, 10 per cent of the time. How much of a problem is this for you, and what do police do to in fact ensure that children who are on the streets when they should be at school—in doing so, of course, they are breaking the law—go to school? What is the role played by the police department in these circumstances?

The CHAIR: Just before we get to that, I think I need to give a number to your previous request for supplementary information.

Hon PETER COLLIER: This is with regard to the truancy?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Yes.

Dr O'Callaghan: Obviously when we started focusing on children out on the streets late at night last year, one of the things that we did —

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Sorry, commissioner; I am not talking about late at night, I am talking about when they should be in school.

Dr O'Callaghan: I am going to get to that.

Hon PETER COLLIER: It is a very comprehensive response, as always.

Dr O'Callaghan: When we started focusing on the late-at-night strategy over the Christmas break, that was obviously a summer break when kids are not at school; there were a lot of kids out late at night. We also know that there are a number of children every day who are not at school who should be at school. I think they are broadly broken down into two categories: truants, who are long-term absentees; and, for want of a better term, unexplained absences when a child does not turn up for school on any one day or two days, something like that. One of the concerns we have is that some of those children, at least, are hanging around shopping centres, potentially at risk of maybe stealing, and some of them get into other types of illegal activity. We have been talking at department-to-department level—so myself and the director general of Education—about police being directed to do more, and at least questioning children of compulsory school age who are not at school on any given day, and if they should be at school, having some strategy in place to either take them to the school or take them to their parents or to a safe place. That is a piece of work we are currently doing with the Department of Education. It has not started yet; we are just working on how those protocols will work.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Currently, if you go to a shopping centre and you see a number of school-age children hanging around, you are inclined, if they are up to mischief, to have a chat with them and then you leave them there?

Dr O’Callaghan: Not necessarily. Under the Children and Community Services Act we have the same powers that we would intercepting a child at night. If we think they are at some sort of risk we can take them to a safe place or back to their home or back to the school indeed, so some of that work is already done. But at least in terms of school-age children not at school, it is not really formalised. We are currently working on some more formalised protocols with the Department of Education.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: So there is, in your view, a case for protocols to be established between the education department and the police department to deal with this growing number of at-risk children —

Dr O’Callaghan: Absolutely.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: — who are truanting?

Dr O’Callaghan: Absolutely; and bear in mind that some of those children will not be able to be returned to school because of their high level of disruption, so we need to find somewhere else to take them to.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Do you see this as a growing problem in terms of your experience —

Dr O’Callaghan: Yes.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: So this is not something that is easing as a problem; rather, it is something that is becoming an increasing burden for police?

Dr O’Callaghan: I am not sure about the numbers of kids who are not at school on any one day. Our focus is always on children who may be committing crime, and trying to deal with those. I could not help you with whether there is a physical increase in the numbers of kids who are not attending school or not.

Hon PETER COLLIER: It is about the same.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Thanks, commissioner.

You made reference earlier to counter service, and you said that as an alternative to counter service, people can call either 131444 or 000. I do not know if you have ever tried to call 131444, but there are an enormous number of people who obviously get frustrated at having to wait extended lengths of time and who abandon their calls. I wonder whether you could provide to the committee the number of abandoned calls for 131444 for the following financial years: 2009-2010; 2010-11; and 2011-12. Also, abandoned calls for the 000 number for the same financial years. I would like percentages and total numbers, if that is possible, because percentages do not really mean much.

Hon PETER COLLIER: We can give you the total number of abandoned calls, but we would need to take that on notice.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: You can give us the total —

Hon PETER COLLIER: We can give you the total number, but not the abandoned calls. We can give you the total number of calls now, but we cannot give you the abandoned calls at this stage.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I am interested in the total number of abandoned calls.

Hon PETER COLLIER: That is what I am just saying; we will have to take that on notice.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Not the total number of calls. The total number of abandoned calls by 131444 and 000, and then you can give me the number of abandoned calls in total for both of those numbers, but then I can aggregate those two together myself.

Hon PETER COLLIER: We will certainly provide that information for you.

[*Supplementary Information No C16.*]

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I just want to clarify this, because I want it in percentage terms and whole numbers, because without whole numbers the percentages do not actually mean a lot. Thank you.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Picking up little bit on what Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich was just discussing with you, on page 490 of budget paper No 2 under “Service Summary”, the third line item is community support, about which I thought the commissioner made reference to earlier when he was talking about those things where you have need to have other agencies coming in as well. But I would assume it also covers the 52 000-odd children who do not go to school or miss a substantial part of their school attendance. My question is: that community support is growing, from the 2010-11 actual to 2015-16, by 21.5 per cent in terms of total expenditure.

[9.00 pm]

That is just the difference between the two over the actual. It is roughly \$19 million divided by \$88.111 million. Point 7 is “Traffic Law Enforcement and Management”. That is growing by 24.6 per cent, about three per cent more. My question is about strategy. Is the expenditure that you are making relative to those two items the best strategy to work towards an outcome of improving the society as a whole? I would have thought, intuitively, it should have been the other way around, at least in terms of percentage growth.

Mr Hodges: The way we work out the percentages that you see there—I am talking about page 490 in our service summary—is that the police conduct an activity survey every year. We look at where we spend the predominance of our time through the demand on our service. We have been monitoring that for quite a number of years now, looking at where the growth is in our demand for service. With regard to point 3, community support, and point 7 that you talk of, we are looking at what total demand comes in in relation to those services and what activity we provide in relation to FTE against those services. That is the way those are worked out. Then we forward project them based on what growth we are seeing and what we have seen over the previous years.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: I think I hear what you say. I take the commissioner’s earlier point, which is a crucial one; that is, you cannot do it all yourselves so you really have to have other budgeted components to work with you to improve what we have in our community in terms of community support. Just focusing on the traffic law enforcement bit for a minute, I wonder whether there is a credibility issue that begins in this area. I would like your comments about whether, first of all, it is you or the transport department that sets a so-called speed limit, with the word “limit”, I think, not being used truthfully. It is not a true word in the way that it is administered because the convention is that we are allowed to go faster than that, up to about one to nine kilometres. That defies, to my mind, the meaning of what the word “limit” actually means. In my view, if we are going one kilometre over the limit, we should be hit for the maximum three points or whatever it might be, but we are not. Either the limit is wrong—maybe it should be nine kilometres more than it should be—or we live with a system that I do not think gives credibility to the law that we are seeking as a whole.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I will get the commissioner to respond to that because it is not really the appropriate division.

Dr O’Callaghan: The police do not set speed limits. They have nothing to do with it. It is set by the Main Roads department and they obviously base it on road conditions and a whole range of things. Our job is enforcement; it is not setting the limits. We just enforce them.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: The difficulty you have then is a credibility issue, which I think is something that permeates society, quite largely, because the word is wrong. You are administering the law but not setting the limit. It seems to me to be a complete disconnection with what should be happening to actually have a credible system.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Mr Italiano would like to add to this, but I think that is more of a statement.

Mr Italiano: I will just bring a couple of issues to your attention. One is that you might assume that a speedometer in your average Australian car is accurate. It is not necessarily the case. In fact, if we are going to rely upon speedos in police cars, they have to be specifically calibrated to make sure they are accurate. You are looking at plus and minus on any car's speedo. Secondly, the devices that we use to detect speed, of course, have to stand up to scrutiny in court. They have to have tolerance limits; they have to meet the manufacturer's specifications. By providing additional information, I am simply pointing out that there are issues around trying to enforce an exact speed limit; that is, what you are saying is that 100 is 100. There are a couple of practical issues that sit with the enforcement of that as a very strict measure. They are just issues that need to be taken into consideration in terms of how you enforce the speed limit.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: That is fair enough. I think I hear what you are saying. The way that you have the mandatory power for the administration of this area means that that is a decision you have to make each time. The courts cannot overturn any of that. What I think is relevant then is that I suspect, if you do a test on the cars on the roads these days, there might be only a small percentage that do not have accurate speedometers, and in terms of your cameras, I suspect a fraction of a per cent are not accurate.

Mr Italiano: That is not the case, not in terms of the manufacturer's tolerances and specifications. We are obliged to follow those technical specifications.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Is that public information what those tolerances are? I will not ask the question if it is not public.

Mr Italiano: No, it is not public information.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: I would like to understand more about that because I just think it is undermining the credibility of how we regard the law as a whole, which comes back to the credibility we give to the police. I think that is something that should be looked at to see whether the credibility can be improved.

I did have one more point. I go back to this famous efficiency dividend. I want to ask about the numbers there. I was approximating my numbers earlier but I did them more accurately this time just to see whether they were an easier route of numbers compared to the total cost of services, thinking it might have been a plugged number. The numbers are quite detailed. The first one is 1.799, if this is the percentage of the total cost of services. The next number is 2.74 and the last number is 4.6749. They are very specific numbers. I ask this question bearing in mind what you said, commissioner—that the minister has said that this was going to be over the next 30 days. My question is about a budget and a budget number, which should have some foundation if it goes into the budget. Are there working papers that support the realisation of these numbers in your department?

Mr Italiano: I am quoting from page 39 of budget paper No 3. The first dot point speaks to the government's announcement around the efficiency dividend. I think it speaks to your query, which is that the amount starts at two per cent and then it grows cumulatively by one percentage by 2013–14, 2014–15 and 2015–16. That is the nature of the policy decision and that is why the amount increases by those amounts over the forward estimates.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: So it is a five per cent dividend over the five years of the forward estimates.

[9.10 pm]

Mr Italiano: That is in the budget paper.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: My point was not necessarily that it increased; that was my point in the very beginning. My point really is about where the cuts are coming from or where you anticipated the cuts to come from to support this budget number.

Hon PETER COLLIER: The commissioner has actually answered that.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Not quite.

Hon ADELE FARINA: No; he has not.

Hon PETER COLLIER: He said it was forthcoming. He has responded to that question tonight.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: There are two issues, minister. One is where it might end up, given the minister has made a statement that it will not affect front-line services. I am concerned about a budget that may have no foundation to it, but it must have because the numbers are very precise. Were there working papers in the department that supported these numbers that are printed in the budget papers?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I think we have answered that, but I will ask the commissioner to answer it again.

Dr O’Callaghan: No; there are no working papers.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Can I ask what the calculation of two per cent was based on to get the \$21 184 000?

Dr O’Callaghan: Total cost of service I think it was based on.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Which is 1.799 per cent?

Hon ADELE FARINA: That would include front line would it not?

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Leaving the front line out. That will come. Yes, it does. That is okay. I do not mind things being changed, but I want to know what it was originally conceived to be.

Mr de Mamiel: It is my understanding that it was actually based on the forward estimates at the time, which are obviously different from what is actually in this book. So you would have to go back and look at what was in the forward estimates possibly last year. Whether they have adjusted it because of any supplementary funding that we may have received—I would have thought they would have taken out the CHOGM event because that was a one-off event. From my understanding it is based on previous forward estimates.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: So the calculation was two per cent of a number with some extracted from the forward estimates in the budget papers of last year. I have got that.

Mr de Mamiel: Pretty well; with some deductions.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Yes, with some deductions. Okay; thank you.

The CHAIR: I am aware we have only a little more time and I have four more speakers.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I think it was based on your service appropriation in the 2011–12 budget with some adjustments, which would have been \$1 057 000, the budget figure, and it is \$1 059 200 that you have to come up with to get two per cent for \$21 million, so I think it is based on the service appropriations from last year’s budget.

Hon PHILIP GARDINER: Yes; okay.

Hon KATE DOUST: The couple of questions I have will probably need to go on notice so I will ask them. They are in reference to FTEs. We see on a number of budget pages that they FTEs are listed under a range of services; for example, on page 493, under “Intelligence and Protective Services” in the column headed 2012–13 “Budget Target” we see there are 794 FTEs. When you turn to page 494 to “Crime Prevention and Public Order” in the same column, the number of FTEs is 555. On page 495 under “Community Support (Non-Offence Incidents)”, same column, FTEs are

listed as 646. There are a couple of other examples. My questions are: how many sworn police officers retired each month in the last financial year until the end of May?

Hon PETER COLLIER: We will have to take that on notice.

Hon KATE DOUST: How many sworn police officers resigned each month in the last financial year until the end of May for reasons other than retirement? Again, I am happy to take that on notice.

Hon PETER COLLIER: We will take it on notice.

Hon KATE DOUST: How many sworn police officers graduated from the academy each month in the last financial year until the end of May.

[Supplementary Information No C17.]

Hon KATE DOUST: On page 491, under the heading “Workforce challenges”, where they talk about “maximise productivity”, what initiatives have been developed previously to maximise productivity?

Dr O’Callaghan: One of the most significant changes to optimise workforce has been the introduction in recent times of that second tier of policing that we were talking about earlier. There is the introduction of auxiliary police, which, in effect, enables us to take fully trained tactical police officers and put them back into the front line. You have seen that occur at the watch-house. There are other parts of the metropolitan area in particular where we have done that and released police officers back to the front line. It enables us to train a group of people to do a single function such as custodial care, and enables us to take out the broad range and the tactically trained police officers and put them back into the front line. That is one of the major things we have done to optimise the workforce.

Hon KATE DOUST: What new initiatives do you have in mind to maximise productivity?

Dr O’Callaghan: There are a range of technology enhancements that are continually being upgraded and will come in over the coming years. One of the ways you can increase workforce productivity and enhance the way the agency works is by streamlining processes, such as getting rid of manual processes, automating them and introducing different types of IT systems. There are a whole range of those things going on all the time.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Perhaps this question needs to go on notice. It is about what we were talking about before on the efficiency dividend and auxiliary officers. Are you able to provide for me for a sworn officer, a custody officer and auxiliary officer in each case the length of training that is required and the rate of pay they receive?

Mr Dreibergs: The training course for auxiliary officers who are going into the custody environment is three months in duration in the police academy and the custody officers undertook that same level of training when they first commenced. It is a three-month course. I do not have the rate of pay, so I will provide that to you later.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: What is the difference between a custody and auxiliary officer if they are doing the same three months of training?

Mr Dreibergs: The custody officers are employed under a different arrangement from auxiliary officers, as was pointed out earlier. They were the initial officers employed to work in the custody environment at the Perth watch-house under the Public Sector Management Act, whereas police auxiliary officers are employed under the Police Act.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: As you said, you cannot provide that now. Can you tell me the difference in the rate of pay for a newly graduated custody officer compared to the pay of an auxiliary officer?

[Supplementary Information No C18.]

Mr Italiano: We no longer employ custody officers, so any custody officers in the organisation now are remaining workforce. We did not have auxiliary available to us when we initially took that decision for the watch-house. It required an amendment to the Police Act to allow us to employ people under that regime. Whilst we will provide the number on the wages you have asked for, I can inform you that the difference between constable and auxiliary pay in the initial years is very little. It is very close. The way in which I mentioned earlier the efficiency dividend is met, it is really the forward years as police officers get additional increments because of their length of service. That is where the differential starts to increase. Just for information, the initial appointment level is not very different at all.

[9.20 pm]

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Can I be clear about the supplementary question I am asking for. I understand you say custody officers are gradually being phased out. Custody officers, when they were initially employed, what was their rate of pay and what rate of pay did auxiliary officers receive? You will see what I am getting at: custody officers, when they were initially used, were they paid more than auxiliary officers coming on board? I ask that because you have talked about the efficiency dividend and auxiliary officers. I am looking to see whether an auxiliary officer has on-costs as well, if that is the difference; in total, a cheaper proposition than what it was to put on a custody officer?

Mr Italiano: The answer is broadly, no. There are differences of course in shift penalties et cetera between the two industrial arrangements et cetera, but by and large it is a comparative salary between the two positions.

Hon LINDA SAVAGE: Can I have it by way of supplementary information?

Mr Italiano: Yes, we can certainly provide that; no question.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I want to go to the income statement on page 503. There is the item “Supplies and services” of \$144 million. I assume that includes your uniforms. You sent your purchasing of uniforms to be manufactured offshore a few years ago, how much money did you save from that process?

Mr Lord: I cannot give you the figures in particular in that case, but some of those initiatives have only just been implemented as well through common-use agreements. We are yet to fully understand those cost savings, which we will be looking into. But at this point in time the offshore factor has only been recently introduced to one lot of garments. The previous one had been in place, but I do not have the exact savings at this point. It is through a government common-use agreement.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: It is not just your agency but a range of agencies that are now going offshore for their purchasing of uniforms?

Mr Lord: We have about four different suppliers. Bearing in mind, though, that our main supplier—the offshore ones are more the subcontractors put in through the common use agreement. Our supplier in Perth is Stewart and Heaton. They take the orders on our behalf. We have about four different suppliers. Two of them are offshore, in Fiji and Vietnam. The more recent one is Vietnam. Of course we have two local suppliers as well in Adelphi and Sinikka fur and leather.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Who provides what?

Mr Lord: Sinikka fur and leather do the operational jackets. Adelphi do more of the tunics that you see the commissioned officers in this evening. The shirts and blouses are the ones that have just gone to Vietnam. The other ones are cargo pants done in Fiji.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The uniforms we see officers wearing out on the streets, they are done in Fiji and Vietnam?

Mr Lord: No, no—there will be components of the garments.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Which components? You just said the cargo pants, the blouses and the shirts—what other components?

Mr Lord: Those are offshore, those ones I have just mentioned. The tunics, which are the jackets and the tunic pants —

Hon KEN TRAVERS: For the dress —

Mr Lord: The dress wear is done locally.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The police officers that I see out on the streets on a daily basis, their uniform is produced offshore; is that correct?

Mr Lord: The jackets that they wear, they have operational jackets, they are done locally; but the blue shirts will be done offshore and of course the cargo pants that you see.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: And the belts?

Mr Lord: You've got me on that one, sorry. I will have to come back to you on that.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: If you could provide us a list of which items and where they are provided from, that would be good, as supplementary information.

[Supplementary Information No C19.]

Hon KEN TRAVERS: What security is in place to ensure that only serving police officers are issued with those uniforms?

Mr Lord: It is all done through our systems. There are second releases as well. If an officer places an order, for instance, as a second release through the officers in charge, they are directed directly to Stewart and Heaton who actually do the preparing of the delivery package. It will be delivered out in that regard.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Is the insignia put on by Stewart and Heaton?

Mr Lord: Yes. That is done locally.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That is all done locally. None of it is done offshore?

Mr Lord: I would have to clarify that one, sorry.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: When you clarify it, can you also tell us what security arrangements are in place at those offshore processing plants to ensure security of the uniforms?

Mr Lord: Yes, I can do.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: You are not able to tell us tonight, I take it?

Mr Lord: No, I cannot tell you that at this stage. I know that we have police clearances on our suppliers, which is a form of security. I am not quite sure if that covers the question that you require.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: But on the suppliers in Fiji and Vietnam?

Mr Lord: I would have to come back to you on that. I am not quite sure, sorry, where the badges are actually sewn on. They might be done locally. If that is the case, it is organised through Stewart and Heaton which have police clearance certificates on our behalf.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: On all the people that work at that location?

Mr Lord: Yes. But I would have to clarify the actual fitting of the badges themselves and come back to you on that.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: But you were saying it has only just occurred.

Mr Lord: Certainly the Vietnam one has only just occurred, yes.

The CHAIR: I am going to be clear that supplementary information C19 will include all of those questions about the sourcing of uniform.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: And security.

Mr Lord: Yes.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: To stay on the income statement, it goes back to some questions Hon Phil Gardiner asked. The commissioner talked about 75 per cent of the total cost of services being for salaries. In terms of meeting your efficiency dividends, have you been given approval or are you being advised that you can seek redundancies?

Hon PETER COLLIER: No.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: All of the savings need to come out of the non-employee benefits, is that correct?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Yes.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: When I look at what those non-employee benefits are, you have got them there as grants and subsidies, supplies and services, accommodation, depreciation and amortisation, and then of course the efficiency dividend. How do you reduce your depreciation and amortisation other than by selling off your assets?

Mr de Mamiel: The depreciation and amortisation is not actually funded. It is a notional figure. We do not get cash in our appropriation for that, so you would discount that entirely.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That brings it down to about 250 to get it from. Have you got a sales program for selling off your accommodation? I assume a number of those are leases that you have. They would be on long-term leases, so when do the leases start to run out, or are they repairs and maintenance on buildings that you own?

Mr Italiano: We lease a number of buildings and their lease lengths vary from place to place. Certainly some of the expenditure we have made recently is about reducing the number of leased facilities, but clearly if you are committed to leases for a period of time, you cannot extract yourselves from those without some form of penalty, depending on the various lease clauses that exist. As far as sales of assets go, such as land and buildings, we have substantially sold a lot of land to pay for the police helicopter over the past few years. There is some land value remaining but it is of no substantial amount at this point in time.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: There is not really much to be had in accommodation. Looking at your annual report from last year, rental leases and hire was \$28 million. Can you give us a breakdown of what the rental leases and hire would be made up of? I assume it is now included under that accommodation figure.

Mr Italiano: I can certainly provide, by way of supplementary information, a list of our leases, yes.

[*Supplementary Information No C20.*]

Hon KEN TRAVERS: When I look down last year's annual report, it includes things like insurances and licences. Are there insurances and licences that you can get rid of as an organisation, or are they all absolutely essential? I would imagine a number of them would underpin front-line services.

[9.30 pm]

Mr Italiano: Licences heavily relate to things like IT software and things of that nature—obviously you have to provision the relevant software for people to do their job. Insurance is, of course, where appropriate to protect the assets of the organisation.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Travel expenses was \$9.8 million last year. I assume that is not going off to conferences and the like; that would be officers moving around the state—is that correct—for operational purposes?

Mr Italiano: In fact the government has announced a global savings target outside the efficiency dividend that already speaks to a reduction in travel.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Yes. How much is that?

Mr Italiano: I think it is included in the overall paper. Bear with me, but it is a global savings target across government.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Can you take that on notice?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: In your last year's annual report, the other two big items were services and contracts, and equipment acquisitions. Can you give us any idea of, for the \$95 million, what those services and contracts would have been for; and, likewise, the equipment acquisitions at \$20.6 million, what they would have been for?

Mr Italiano: We would have to take that on notice and provide it by way of supplementary.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Have you got a rough idea tonight as to what sorts of things would be covered under services and contracts—the sorts of types of contracts that you would be —

Mr Italiano: Yes. You would be looking at clothing; you would be looking at uniforms; you would be looking at help desk; you would be looking at a range of contracting services that we have; and, like most large organisations, you are going to have a reasonably high percentage on a small number of high-value contracts that we hold with IT companies et cetera.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Would they have a term on them in terms of you would be locked into a fixed term?

Mr Italiano: Yes, they do. Some expire, as I said, at different times with options et cetera; but, yes, they do.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: So could you maybe give us, as part of that supplementary information, when those services and contracts expire—the ones in last year's annual report, which I assume make up a significant chunk of the \$144 million of supplies and services for this year?

Mr Italiano: Yes, I can. As I said, a small amount of contracts would account for the vast majority of that; but, yes, we can provide that information.

[Supplementary Information No C21.]

Mr Italiano: Sorry, but I was asked a question earlier about the travel reduction. I just wonder if I can provide that now; it might be efficient?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Italiano: The reduction in travel expenditure for WA Police, which is part of, as I said, a separate government \$300 million global savings target, is \$0.133 million, so \$133 000 in 2012–13, and it grows to \$419 000 in 2015–16.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I guess the reason—I have gone through all of those, and I know I am going to probably get the same answer again, but I cannot see how it is physically possible for you to get two per cent out of the non-staff salaries. It would strike me that the only way you are going to be able to get two per cent is to have redundancies. I mean, you know, blind Freddy can see it, so why can we not get an answer to this estimates committee that you are going to need to implement redundancies to achieve your efficiency dividend?

Hon PETER COLLIER: As I said, I think the commissioner has already answered that question on several occasions.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: No he has not!

Hon PETER COLLIER: He has. It may not be the answer that you want, but he has answered it.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Minister, this is the Parliament. You are accountable to the Parliament. This is not about you sitting there and refusing to answer questions.

Hon PETER COLLIER: It is not a matter of not answering.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: How will you do it, then?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Do not get all indignant with me!

Hon KEN TRAVERS: In simple terms, explain to me how you can achieve it without redundancies.

Hon PETER COLLIER: The information will be available sometime in July.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: How do you do it without redundancies, minister?

Hon PETER COLLIER: It will be available sometime in July.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: How do you do it without redundancies?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I have just given you my response. You may not like it, but that is my response.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: You are asking for over 10 per cent of the non-salary —

Hon PETER COLLIER: I have given you my response. You are not going to bully me, mate! Keep trying!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Can you guarantee, then, that there will be no redundancies, minister?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I have given you my response.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Minister, can you guarantee there will be no redundancies?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Madam Chair, with all due respect, I have answered that five times.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: He has not answered that question. Can he guarantee there will be no redundancies?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I told you we will give a response in July for the eight months.

The CHAIR: That is the answer that you are getting, so I think that is as far as we can go.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Well, it is a pretty contemptuous answer to the Parliament, minister! Do not blame your officers! It is you!

Hon PETER COLLIER: Bully-boy tactics do not work with me, mate!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: He is not a bully boy! You should talk!

Hon PETER COLLIER: You have got to be joking!

The CHAIR: Excuse me! It is getting late. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich, can we desist.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Sorry, Madam Chair.

The CHAIR: You are not sorry at all! Come on! Hon Adele Farina gets the last question, and then we will go.

Hon ADELE FARINA: My question relates to legislation that was passed in Parliament in relation to the police being able to charge out for their services for events and functions. I just want to know, in relation to south west events and functions, whether a list can be provided of which events and functions the police actually charged for their services to be provided to those events and functions

in the south west, and the amount that was charged for each of those events? I am happy to take that on notice at this late hour!

The CHAIR: Do you want to take that on notice?

Hon ADELE FARINA: I will just broaden that question to the whole state, at the request of my colleague; and, as I said, I am happy to take that on notice.

The CHAIR: The commissioner is looking keen to say something.

Dr O’Callaghan: I can give you an answer. There has been none.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: There is nothing in the forward estimates, either. You are not going to charge them?

Dr O’Callaghan: The legislation as it has been passed requires the person running the event to ask us to supply the resources, and they are unlikely to do that, so we are unlikely to charge.

Hon KATE DOUST: So what was the point of us passing the legislation?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: But when something goes wrong, you will still have to attend, will you not?

The CHAIR: Okay. I think we might have come to a grinding halt on that interesting note. I need to say a few words just to finish the hearing. 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 questions taken on notice. If members have any unasked questions, I ask them to submit these by email to the clerk at the close of the hearing. Responses to these questions will be requested within 10 working days of receipt of the questions. Should you be unable to meet that 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. Finally, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you very much for your attendance this evening, and we will close the hearing.

Hearing concluded at 9.36 pm
