

MEDIA STATEMENT



Murray Cowper MLA

Shadow Minister for Employment Protection; Emergency Services

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Not wearing a seatbelt attracts tougher penalties than assaulting a police officer

Murray Cowper MLA is confused and angry at the Government's latest approach to toughen road safety penalties, which he says is a ploy to appear tough on crime in an election year which comes after years of soft on crime remedies.

"Whilst we can now penalise those without a seat belt with a \$500 fine, assaults on police officers still attract no minimum penalty."

"I know of a case of a person who went into court with prior convictions of assaults on police officers, who subsequently assaulted two more officers, then walked away with a \$600 fine."

"I have little hope that that person is aware of the gravity of his actions."

"I also have little hope that those offenders who get off with community service orders, as is currently the case, will be deterred next time they feel inclined to assault a police officer."

"This government needs to get its priorities right when it comes to being tough on crime."

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