

**Question on Notice
No. 774
Asked on 24 May 2005**

MR SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services Ms SPENCE -

QUESTION:

With reference to policing in the Brisbane Central District –

- (1) What are the number of sworn police officers, by branch (reported separately) who were rostered for duty prior to, during and after the Premier's street walk (reported separately for 1400 to 2200 hours and 2200–0600 hours) and what role did each officer play, for each officer assigned to help facilitate the Premier's street walk on Friday night, 18 February 2005?
- (2) What are the total number of sworn police officers, by branch (reported separately) who were rostered for duty on Friday night, 18 February 2005 (reported separately for 1400 to 2200 hours and 2200–0600 hours)?
- (3) What are the total number of sworn police officers, by branch (reported separately) who were rostered for duty on Friday night, 11 February 2005 (reported separately for 1400 to 2200 hours and 2200–0600 hours)?
- (4) Will she provide an explanation as to any variation in these numbers?

ANSWER:

- (1) There were no operational police officers assigned to assist the Premier and myself when we were in the Brisbane Central Business District on the night of 18 February 2005.

The Leader of the Opposition has continually asked about police in the Queen Street Mall on the night the Premier, the Police Commissioner and I visited in February.

This has already been addressed.

The Commissioner of Police issued a press release stating that no extra police were rostered on that night. Yet, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition again questions the integrity of the Police Commissioner with this Question on Notice.

I have been advised by the Queensland Police Service that the number of police rostered on the night the Premier, the Commissioner and I went for our walk through the Mall was 51 in the Brisbane Central District.

I have been advised by the Queensland Police Service that the number of police rostered the week before by way of a comparison was exactly the same, also 51.

If the evening shift which had completed prior to the arrival of the Premier, the Commissioner and myself is also taken into consideration, there were more police working the week before when we were not in the mall.

While the Queensland Police Service does not release individual police staffing figures due to operational considerations, considering the nature of the Deputy

Leader of the Opposition's Question on Notice raising concerns about the integrity of statements previously made by the Commissioner of Police, I have approved the release of the staffing roster in this instance as it follows in this answer.

- (2) The number of officers rostered to perform duty in the Brisbane Central District on the evening and night of 18 February, 2005 are as follows:

	Evening Shift (Commences before 2000 hrs)	Night Shift (Commences 2000 hrs or later)	
Brisbane City Station	11	29	
Tactical Crime Squad	3	0	
Brisbane City CIB	2	0	
Brisbane City JAB	0	2	
Fortitude Valley CIB	2	0	
BCD Traffic Branch	4	1	
Fortitude Valley Station	12	19	
PSRT/SERT	6 ⁽³⁾	0	⁽³⁾ Operation Striker – Joint operation with officers from Brisbane West District. These officers were not operating in the CBD. The officers' shift had terminated prior to the Premier and Police Minister's walk.
Totals	40	51	

Not all officers were rostered to commence duty at 1400 hours and 2200 hours as the start of shift is staggered to ensure the continued presence of officers in the CBD. To provide details of officers that only commenced duty at either 1400 hours or 2200 hours would not provide an accurate representation of the actual number of officers on duty. Commencement times on 18 February, 2005 were 1400 hours, 1800 hours, 1900 hours, 2000 hours, 2200 hours and 2300 hours.

No officers were assigned to facilitate the Premier's street walk on the night of Friday 18 February, 2005 and no request was received by the Brisbane Central District to provide any such assistance. No additional beat officers were tasked to the CBD and rostered beat officers were deployed in the CBD by the District Duty Officer consistent with expected "calls for service" criteria.

The Premier and myself were accompanied by Commissioner Atkinson and the Acting District Officer of Brisbane Central District, Acting Superintendent Horton. The Premier was also accompanied by his close personal protection police officer as per dignitary protocols.

- (2) The number of officers rostered to perform duty in the Brisbane Central District on the evening and night of 11 February, 2005 are as follows:

	Evening Shift (Commences before 2000 hrs)	Night Shift (Commences 2000 hrs or later)
Brisbane City Station	10	24
Tactical Crime Squad	8	0

Brisbane City CIB	7	4
Brisbane City JAB	2	0
Fortitude Valley CIB	2	0
BCD Traffic Branch	3	2
Fortitude Valley Station	10	21
PSRT/SERT	0	0
Totals	42	51

- (4) As can be seen, there is no significant variation in the number of officers rostered to perform duty in the Brisbane Central District on the nights of 11 and 18 February, 2005, except that there were two more officers working on the Friday night before the Premier and I were in the City.

Attached is the press release issued by the Commissioner of Police after the Walk-through in February.



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

February 28, 2005

Issued at: 5.50pm

Premiers walk through-police staffing

Any suggestion that additional police officers were rostered for duty for Premier Beattie's walk through the Queen Street Mall on Friday February 18th is totally untrue.

Commissioner Bob Atkinson has publicly stated on a number of occasions that no extra police were on duty that evening.

