

Question on Notice
No. 1492
Asked on Wednesday 29 November 2006

MRS PRATT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

With reference to prisoners and the State prison system—

- (1) How many concerns and complaints to the general manager and Government have been received in the 12 months prior to and after the implementation of the rotational roster in each of the State's prisons?
- (2) How many complaints to the general manager or Government have been received from prison inmates 12 months prior to and after the implementation of the rotational roster in each of the State's prisons?
- (3) How many reported concerns with regard to security codes have been received in the 12 months prior to and after the implementation of the rotational roster in each of the State's prisons from staff and inmates?
- (4) How many staff have resigned in the 12 months prior to and after the implementation of the rotational roster in each of the State's prisons?

ANSWER:

- 1) As with all Government employees, QCS staff have access to a range of procedures through which they can raise issues of concern with their superiors.
- 2) Offenders in prisons make complaints all the time, mostly of a frivolous or vexatious nature. They are being held against their will in a controlled environment and they are well acquainted with the procedures that exist for them to raise complaints. Offenders have a lot of time on their hands and formulating complaints is a common activity. Prisoners air their concerns by writing to the General Manager, writing to MPs, writing to the Minister, corresponding with the official visitor, writing to the Ombudsman, or instituting proceedings in the anti-discrimination tribunal and in some cases the High Court.
- 3) I am unclear in relation to the reference to 'security codes' made by the Member for Nanango. The Member should provide further clarification to enable an accurate response to be provided.
- 4) Like all large employers, QCS has a recruitment program to offset employees who may leave due to retirement, advancement, career change or change in personal circumstances. Rotational roster arrangements have been implemented progressively since November 2005 to October 2006. In the last 12 months, there have been 14 resignations of permanent correctional officers across the State which is a stable reflection of the attrition rate of 0.9% over the last 24 months.