

Question on Notice
No. 759
Asked on Thursday, 11 May 2006

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice No. 433 and responded to by the Minister on 28 April 2006 wherein information in relation to police vacancies was sought but not provided:

- (1) How many vacancies currently exist in all police districts (reported separately for each district)?
- (2) What is the classification level of each vacancy (reported separately)?
- (3) How long have these vacancies remained unfilled (reported separately for each district)?
- (4) Should she attempt to claim that this information is not available because it is not held centrally, will she outline how it can be accessed?

ANSWER:

After seeking advice from the Commissioner of Police, the following information has been provided:

- (1) The current position of the Queensland Police Service is the best it has ever been. The estimated actual strength of the Service as at 18 May 2006 is 9,239 officers.

Since the Beattie Government was first elected, the number of police officers in Queensland has increased by record 2,432.

Within the Service, the variance in the actual number of officers attached to districts may fluctuate above and below the approved strength; the overall numbers for regions generally remains around the approved strength.

(2), (3) & (4)

The Queensland Police Service advise me that it is extremely difficult for the Service to provide any response to these questions as there are many variables and information may be unreliable and misleading.

In an organisation the size of the Queensland Police Service, there will invariably be a high level of mobility among its officers and the existence of variances in the actual number of officers attached to police divisions, districts and regions at any particular point in time is an inevitable feature of that mobility.

While the Service endeavours at all times to maintain the actual number of officers in line with the approved strength, this is not possible in every case.

Variances in actual numbers above and below the approved strength are influenced by many variables and the following factors need to be taken into consideration:

- the organisational structure of the Service is subject to constant change with the creation of new divisions and establishments, the realignment of

policing boundaries and the movement of officers and functions between divisions, district and region functions;

- the actual numbers of officers attached to police divisions and districts can vary markedly due to natural attrition, promotion and transfers, recruit graduations and the current and future allocations of first year constables;
- there is an inevitable lag time in filling vacancies that result from either natural attrition or promotion and transfers, however, the level of vacancies is well within the normal business parameters of the Service;
- surplus officers and first year constables are part of the funded strength of the Service and are offset against vacancies; and
- the number of officers waiting to proceed on transfer following an allocation on completion of their training as first year constables.