

**Question on Notice
No. 1556
Asked on 29 October 2008**

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

- (1) Will she provide a list of all watch houses in Queensland where police officers are providing a custodial function?
- (2) How many police officers are performing watch house duties at any given time?

ANSWER:

- (1) Police officers and watchhouse officers are required to ensure the security, health and safety of all persons held in their custody. Holding cells at police stations are designed to hold arrested persons or prisoners in custody for a short time, while watchhouses are primarily designed to hold persons overnight or for 24 hours or longer.

The Queensland Police Service has 26 recognised watchhouse facilities. The locations of these watchhouses are shown below:

Central Region:	Gladstone, Mackay and Rockhampton
Far Northern Region:	Cairns, Innisfail and Mareeba
Metropolitan North Region:	Brisbane City and Stratphine
Metropolitan South Region:	Cleveland and Richlands
North Coast Region:	Bundaberg, Caboolture, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Murgon, Maroochydore and Redcliffe
Northern Region:	Mt Isa and Townsville
South Eastern Region:	Beenleigh, Coolangatta and Southport
Southern Region:	Ipswich, Toowoomba and Warwick

- (2) There are 168 police officers and 100 civilian staff members dedicated to performing watchhouse duties. Depending on local operational needs, additional police officers may be deployed to perform watchhouse duties on a temporary rotational basis during peak periods.