

**Question on Notice  
No. 1608  
Asked on 28 October 2009**

MR CRANDON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to police attendance at traffic incidents—

- (1) How many incidents did police attend in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported by year and police region)?
- (2) How many of these incidents involved police taking action against one or more drivers (reported by year and police region)?
- (3) What is the average time police spend off job at a traffic incident?

**ANSWER:**

The Bligh Government and Queensland Police Service are committed to ensuring the state's roads are safe for all road users. The attendance of police officers at the scenes of traffic incidents is an important aspect of their role, and significantly contributes to maintaining a high degree of safety in environments which may become less user-friendly as a result of a traffic incident.

Police officers attending to traffic incidents are, at all times, undertaking tasks which make up the role of on-duty officers. They play an important role in recording and analysing details of the incident to assist with the incident investigation, locating and assisting persons who may have been injured or killed as a result of the incident, neutralising dangers in the immediate environment, interviewing witnesses, and assisting other emergency service officers, such as Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service officers, as needed. Police also coordinate the management of traffic in and around incidents, including traffic direction and diversion and the removal of vehicles involved in the incident, to ensure that the traffic flow returns to normal as soon as practicable.

The amount of time that police are involved in managing and investigating a traffic incident can vary from a few minutes to several hours, depending on a number of factors including (but not limited to) whether the incident involved a fatality, the number of persons injured and to what extent they are injured, how many vehicles and persons involved, impact on the nearby environment (such as fallen power lines, damaged property etc), and assistance required by other agencies in attendance.

With respect to part (1) of the question, the numbers of incidents attended by police in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported by year and police region) are shown in the attached table.

With respect to parts (2) and (3) of the question, I am advised that ascertaining the requested information would require a manual examination of records on each involved incident. Given the significant numbers involved, this would require a substantial and unreasonable allocation of police time and resources, and would detract from service delivery.

**Reported Traffic Incidents attended by Police, All Police Regions,  
2006-07 to 2008-09<sup>(1)</sup>**

<b>Police Region</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<b>Central</b>	2,862	3,043	2,959
<b>Far Northern</b>	2,141	2,286	2,148
<b>Metropolitan North</b>	4,629	5,207	5,096
<b>Metropolitan South</b>	4,362	4,683	4,594
<b>North Coast</b>	5,404	5,939	5,627
<b>Northern</b>	2,013	2,150	2,153
<b>South Eastern</b>	4,731	5,489	5,356
<b>Southern</b>	3,580	3,865	3,987
<b>Queensland<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>29,726</b>	<b>32,681</b>	<b>32,012</b>

(1) These data are preliminary and may be subject to change.

(2) The region totals do not equal to the Queensland total as there are incidents where location may not have been recorded.

These data are not official Service data as they are outside the bounds of what are published in official Service documents.

Source: Queensland Police Service (unpublished data) ©