

**Question on Notice
No. 505
Asked on 23 March 2010**

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

QUESTION:

For the last four years, listed separately by region and location—

- (1) How many police stations are allocated to operate 24 hours a day?
- (2) How many do not operate 24 hours a day and what are those operational hours?
- (3) How many officers are allocated to each station during normal business hours and how many are allocated outside normal business hours?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service is available 24 hours a day to assist the people of Queensland through public access to stations via front counters, telephone, the internet and Police Communications Centres.

There are currently 337 police stations, 59 Neighbourhood Police Beats and 46 Police Beat Shopfronts as a part of 31 operational police districts that exist across the State.

In order to make the best use of available resources, the number of officers allocated by the Queensland Police Service to any location must be determined having regard to the needs of communities throughout Queensland and the total number of officers within the Police Service.

To this end, the Police Service has developed and maintains a Staffing Allocation Model which is used for determining the allocation of officers across police regions, districts and divisions. The Model is continually revised and updated on the basis of assessments of the relative workloads and police staffing needs of all areas as identified through population, crime and traffic statistics and various other factors common to all regions.

The Service also adopts a Priority Policing Policy which facilitates an appropriate, timely, efficient and effective policing response to calls for service. The policy recognises the inherently unpredictable nature of policing and the need to be able to identify a flexible response to calls for service.

This policy acknowledges and reaffirms that the safety of people and the security of property are the priority of all officers. It also embodies a flexible operational resource allocation model which ensures that internal organisational and administrative structures do not impede the efficient and effective delivery of policing services.

Stations that operate 24 hours therefore vary from day to day based on the needs of the community and local arrangements to meet district policing requirements. For example,

night work arrangements are shared between Moorooka and Sherwood Stations on a rotation basis which in effect allows each station to operate 24 hours every second week.

Stations with smaller officer numbers in remote areas, such as those within the Electorate of Gregory, are not routinely rostered to perform night work unless there is a planned event occurring within the area such as a B&S Ball or rodeo. However, these officers are generally 'on-call' and available to attend all calls for service any time of the day or night should the need arise.

Alternatively, larger centres such as Surfers Paradise, Brisbane City, Toowoomba and Cairns operate on a permanent 24 hour basis, seven days a week.

I am advised that identifying the specific operational hours of each police station in Queensland over the last four years, including officers allocated to stations at any given time, would involve an extensive data collection process. As a result, collating the requested information would require a substantial and unreasonable allocation of police time and resources.

Again, it is important to recognise the Police Service is available 24 hours a day to assist the people of Queensland and the flexible approaches outlined allow police to provide an effective and efficient response to meet community needs and expectations.

It is also important to note the 2008 Service Delivery and Performance Commission review of the QPS concluded "that the QPS has a strong service delivery culture and has continued to deliver a 24 hour seven-day-a-week policing service, to approximately four million residents and more than seven million people who visit the geographically diverse state each year. This service has continued during a time of rapid population growth which has increased demands for services and placed pressure on the use of available policing resources".

Furthermore, the Bligh Government has continued to increase police numbers each year. In 2009–10, the Government has funded 203 additional police positions (including 53 traffic positions), which are part of a three-year Government commitment to deliver 600 additional police officers by March 2012. This will see 10 600 police in Queensland by 2012, which more than meets this Government's commitment to maintain a police to population ratio at or above the national average.

Police numbers have also been boosted as a result of the Police Service's civilianisation strategy which has released officers for frontline policing to the community. Since 2005-06, the Police Service has employed over 500 staff members under the civilianisation program in roles such as watchhouse, counter and administrative support.

As the additional front-line, first response general duties police officers resulting from these commitments progressively become available for deployment, they will continue to be allocated throughout the State in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Police Service.

The Queensland Police Service website has a Police Station Locator tool which provides details of all police stations in Queensland.

The Police Station Locator Tool can be found at www.police.qld.gov.au.