

**Question on Notice
No. 612
Asked on 10 May 2011**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to infringement notices for public nuisance and related offences—

- (1) How many tickets have been issued since the scheme was implemented (reported by police district and by month)?
- (2) How many tickets have been contested in court?
- (3) How many tickets have not been paid?

ANSWER:

The ability for police to issue tickets for public nuisance was extended state-wide in November 2010 following State Parliament's passing of the Police Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. This legislation balances the rights of individuals and the rights of the community to a safe and fair society by enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

The issuing of infringement notices has reduced the necessity for offenders to be taken into police custody for relatively minor offences and enable police to spend less time on paperwork for public nuisance offenders and be available to perform operational duties.

The Crime and Misconduct Commission's report, *Policing Public Order: A review of the public nuisance offence* identified ticketing as a viable option for dealing with public nuisance behaviour.

Griffith University evaluated the trial and concluded infringement notices were a cost-effective means of dealing with public nuisance offences. It found that during the trial period 46% of all persons ticketed had no previous criminal history - consistent with the CMC report findings that policing of public nuisance offending is focused on managing 'party people' in response to public concerns.

The ability for police to issue infringement notices is in addition to current actions available, including diversion, cautions, issue of move-on-directions, issue of notices to appear and arrest and charge.

(1)

The public nuisance ticketing scheme was implemented state-wide on 8 November 2010. A total of 4,446 tickets were issued for alleged public nuisance offences during the period 8 November 2010 to 31 March 2011. Attachment "A" provides a breakdown of that total by police district and month¹.

(2) and (3)

The QPS is unable to identify the number of public nuisance tickets contested in court or how many of them have not been paid. This information is recorded by the State Penalties Enforcement Registry within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

¹ The number of tickets issued during April 2011 has not been included as a six week period is required to allow receipt of all relevant data.

Attachment "A"

Number of tickets issued for public nuisance ⁽¹⁾ and related offences, 8 November 2010 to 31 March 2011 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

Police Area	Nov-10 ⁽²⁾	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11
Far Northern	34	84	69	34	56
Cairns	32	69	54	27	38
Innisfail	2	9	9	3	11
Mareeba	-	6	6	4	7
Northern	73	173	160	137	195
Mount Isa	18	46	39	48	75
Townsville	55	127	121	89	120
Central	54	91	91	47	50
Gladstone	10	27	10	4	9
Longreach	9	9	4	4	3
Mackay	13	30	28	21	21
Rockhampton	22	25	49	18	17
North Coast	119	183	198	123	156
Bundaberg	14	23	17	13	13
Caboolture	8	14	20	6	9
Gympie	18	19	20	19	22
Maryborough	21	31	36	20	28
Redcliffe	3	23	13	29	20
Sunshine Coast	55	73	92	36	64
Southern	73	121	119	113	103
Charleville	13	14	2	4	7
Dalby	4	8	13	8	13
Ipswich	13	18	21	14	20
Roma	7	10	11	17	3
Toowoomba	21	44	39	46	44
Warwick	15	27	33	24	16
South Eastern	401	203	186	111	106
Coomera	10	7	10	6	7
Gold Coast	375	171	155	89	75
Logan	16	25	21	16	24
Metropolitan North	77	120	84	79	135
Brisbane Central	64	106	73	64	97
Brisbane West	1	5	2	7	5
North Brisbane	9	4	4	4	29
Pine Rivers	3	5	5	4	4
Metropolitan South	40	60	93	40	55
Oxley	6	2	4	2	2
South Brisbane	30	52	71	33	43
Wynnum	4	6	18	5	10
Queensland	871	1,035	1,000	684	856

Notes:

(1) Notes on public nuisance and associated offences eligible to be issued an infringement notice

± Eligible offences are:

Public urination
 Public nuisance - language
 Public nuisance - offensive
 Public nuisance - disorderly
 Public nuisance - violent
 Public nuisance - threatening
 Obstruct police*
 Disobey state name and address*

(2) The scheme was implemented on 8 November 2010. Therefore, the data for November 2010 is from the 8th to the 30th inclusive.

Data for the remaining months is based on their full calendar month date range.

(3) This figures are preliminary and are subject to change.

* Officers may issue an infringement notice for two associated PPRA offences (i.e. obstruct police and disobey requirement to state name and address) on the condition that these offences happen in connection with a public nuisance offence for which the person is already being ticketed. Failing to provide evidence of correctness of name and address is not an associated offence.

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