

Question on Notice
No. 1486
Asked on 30 October 2018

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the FTE (Full Time Equivalent) allocation of police officers for the Far North district, as at 1 October 2018, with a breakdown of actual strength and approved strength reported separately?

ANSWER:

The allocation of police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, safety issues and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision, free of any political interference, which is as it should be. This ensures a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that, as of 30 September 2018, the approved police strength for the Far North District, including Division, District and Central Functions was 866.

The QPS has advised that comparing the actual headcount or actual FTE at any particular point in time is ineffective because these numbers fluctuate with temporary vacancies, retirements, transfers and new recruits coming on line. Further, I am advised that the allocation of new First Year Constables and Second Year Constables is particularly influential with regards to these numbers. Accordingly, the most effective measure for comparison is the approved police strength. On this basis, the QPS has advised that the actual headcount for the Far North District, including Division, District and Central Functions was 844, and the actual FTE for the Far North District, including Division, District and Central Functions was 838.21, as of 30 September 2018. The QPS has also advised that it uses its best endeavours to fill any vacancies as soon as possible.

The Member may be interested to know that 46 recruits are expected to graduate from the North Queensland Police Academy next month and QPS has advised that the majority of these recruits are expected to be stationed in the Northern Region.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed to delivering an additional 535 police personnel, including 115 counter terrorism specialists by 2021-22.