

Question on Notice
No. 769
Asked on 16 July 2020

MR D JANETZKI ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the offence of 'unlawful use of a motor vehicle' contained in s 408A of the Criminal Code—

Will the Minister advise, between 2018 and 2020 (to date) the number of youths aged 10-17 years of age who committed the offence and (a) were charged, (b) had no action taken against them, (c) were cautioned and (d) were referred to restorative justice process?

ANSWER:

I am advised that Queensland Police Service (QPS) holds data on the number offences charged, however, this is not an indication of the number of people who have been convicted of the offence. I am advised that for it to be said that a person has committed an offence, then that person must be convicted of that offence. Accordingly, as the data for convictions is held by the Courts, the Member should address their request for information to the appropriate Minister.

Notwithstanding the above, I can advise that data on the offence of unlawful use of a motor vehicle by Police District can be found in the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) Annual Crime Statistic Report.

In addition, I am advised that QPS records include figures for young people who have unlawfully used a motor vehicle where no action was taken, where they were cautioned, or where they were referred to a restorative justice process.

Accordingly, I am advised that between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2020, 21 had no action taken against them; 1,198 were cautioned; and 407 were referred to restorative justice processesⁱ.

I understand that these police responses may be used for a variety of reasons, which may include where a young person is a passenger in a stolen vehicle but was not responsible for the theft or where a young person may have taken the family car without permission, among other things.

ⁱ The numbers are accurate however it should also be noted that a person who committed multiple unlawful use of motor vehicle offences in the period will be counted multiple times over the period.