

Question on Notice
No. 1197
Asked on 13 October 2021

MR D LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many officers were engaged in Road Policing Command duties for each of the last five financial years and of those, how many were deployed to COVID-19 related duties.

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that all operational police officers are engaged in road safety during the normal course of their duties at some point, in some way.

The QPS has advised that specific road policing officers are specifically trained to undertake tasks that enhance road safety.

Further, I am advised by the QPS that the approved police officer strength over the last five financial years for road policing officers, including forensic crash unit officers and highway patrol officers (as they are now known), is provided in the table below:

2020-21	503
2019-20	501
2018-19	501
2017-18	500
2016-17	499

The QPS has advised that to provide accurate figures in response to this deployment would require an interrogation of unit rosters and a manual examination of officers on secondment. As such, I am advised the QPS considers this to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

I commend all police personnel on their exceptional efforts to keep Queensland safe during the global health pandemic.

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades. The 2021/22 record police budget supports the rollout of an additional 2,025 police personnel, including 1,450 sworn officers over five years, from 1 July 2020.

As the Member should know, the allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.