

Question on Notice
No. 5
Asked on 23 February 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many members of the Queensland Police Service have been allocated in each month to border control duty from the time of the initial border closures until today's date?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taskforce Sierra Linnet, the QPS' specialist COVID-19 response team was recognised as an exceptional community safety initiative, receiving a Premier's Award for Excellence for leading a compliance regime of an unprecedented nature, scale and duration during an unprecedented public health event.

The QPS continues to support Government's public health response through implementing, adapting and improving the operational response by means of an innovative compliance regime.

This award-winning community safety initiative has played an integral role in conducting compliance and enforcement activities since the introduction of State and International border controls at Queensland's road border entry points, and domestic and international airports. These border controls have been the State's first line of defence in stopping and containing the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland, as has been demonstrated through the continued low numbers of COVID-19 cases in Queensland.

I am informed that, as at 25 February 2021, it is estimated over 242,000 shifts dedicated to COVID-19 duties have been completed by QPS members. This figure includes hotel quarantine duties, operations and coordination, airport and road border control, compliance and investigative functions, and remote community operations.

Prior to September 2020, QPS deployments to COVID-19 related duties were captured at a local level. I am advised that obtaining verifiable and precise data on the number of QPS members deployed to border control duties in this phase would require manual interrogation of each roster period for each QPS work unit across the State, which is considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources.