

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1027

asked on Thursday, 13 October 2022

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**MR P WEIR** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

With reference to fossicking—

Will the Minister outline from 2018 to present (reported separately by year), (a) the number of Land and Access Compliance Unit Field Officers, (b) the number of illegal fossicking compliance breaches and (c) the number of prosecutions for illegal fossicking?

ANSWER:

- (a) The number of officers employed by the Department of Resources in its Field and Compliance Team by year are:

2018	–	15 FTEs
2019	–	16 FTEs
2020	–	14 FTEs
2021	–	14 FTEs
2022	–	15 FTEs

- (b) The term ‘illegal fossicking’ is used broadly to describe an activity where people are allegedly undertaking prospecting, panning or using metal detector equipment in the following contexts:

- in resource reserves where these activities are not permitted
- in areas where permission has not been granted by either the landholder or a relevant tenure holder, either with or without a current fossicking licence
- where the activity is being undertaken other than for recreational, tourism or educational purposes, either with or without a current fossicking licence
- undertaking fossicking activities in any area without holding a current fossicking licence.

In all contexts, the number of potential non-compliances in relation to fossicking activities detected by, or referred to, the Department of Resources for each year are:

2018	-	No data captured
2019	-	11 non-compliances
2020	-	25 non-compliances
2021	-	54 non-compliances
2022	-	11 non-compliances to date

- (c) The Department of Resources has not undertaken any prosecutions in relation to fossicking activities in the years requested.