

Question on Notice
No. 1515
Asked on 2 December 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to exemptions granted from the Police Commissioner's order that all Queensland Police Service staff be fully vaccinated against COVID-19— Will the Minister advise (a) the total number of exemptions granted, (b) the number of exemptions granted (reported separately by rank) and (c) any conditions imposed on staff granted an exemption?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that out of a workforce of over 17,000 members, the number of vaccination exemptions granted by the Vaccination Exemption Committee (VEC) was 318. It is important to note that this number is representative of the number of exemptions granted and **not** the number of individuals granted exemptions. Some members may have been granted multiple temporary exemptions and each of these would have been recorded as a separate exemption.

The QPS advise that exemptions were not broken down by rank when recorded, only by sworn or unsworn staff. I am advised by the QPS that 206 exemptions were granted for sworn officers and 112 exemptions were granted for unsworn staff members by the VEC. The QPS advise that to provide this information to the Member would require a manual examination of records and is therefore considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time. Notwithstanding this, I am advised by the QPS that no Commissioned Officers and no members of the Executive Leadership Team (that is, an officer of the rank from Inspector to Commissioner) were granted exemptions by the VEC.

I am advised by the QPS that conditions on members granted an exemption were considered by the member's local management on a case-by-case basis. This was to ensure that individual circumstances of the member's workplace could be taken into account when determining any arrangements required to ensure the safety of the community, the member and the QPS workforce. The QPS advise that to provide this information to the Member would require a manual examination of records and is therefore considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.