

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1038**  
**Asked on 12 September 2023**

**MR M BERKMAN** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the use of spit hoods in Queensland prisons—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many times spit hoods were used in each Queensland prison in the 2022-23 financial year, and how many instances of use were (i) on women, (ii) in low-security facilities, (b) how many instances of prisoners spitting on or attempting to bite QCS officers have been recorded in the last 10 years and (c) how many QCS officers have contracted disease through spit or bite injuries from prisoners in the last 10 years?

**ANSWER:**

The safety of custodial officers and those detained in custodial centres is a key and important consideration for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS).

I am advised that QCS custodial officers are among the best trained and equipped custodial officers in Australasia.

All incidents in custodial centres are taken seriously and are the subject of review and oversight as and when appropriate.

In relation to the Member's question, I am advised by QCS as follows:

(a) The total number of times, across all prisons in 2022-23, 82

(i) 5

(ii) 0

(b) To determine the data for attempts of spitting or biting or spitting at any employee where the bodily fluid does not make contact with an officer for the last 10 years would require a manual examination of records which QCS considers to be an unjustifiable use of resources at this time.

However, I appreciate the member's interest in this matter and I am advised by QCS that there have been 225 incidents over the last 4 financial years involving prisoners actually biting or spitting at a QCS employee. Please note that this number does not include attempts of spitting or biting or spitting at an employee where the bodily fluid did not make contact.

(c) Employee medical records regarding the contracting of a disease is private health information. QCS does not maintain data specific to officers contracting disease as a result of prisoners spitting or biting. When an officer reports any injury, inclusive of injuries obtained as a result of a prisoner spitting or biting,

the officer is offered medical treatment, inclusive of attending an external medical practitioner for treatment. Further, all QCS employees and their household family members are able to access specialised support and counselling services via the Employee Assistance Program. The service covers a range of personal and work-related issues, and is available to book appointments 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.