

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1156**  
**Asked on 10 October 2023**

**MRS L GERBER** ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise the level of FTE, actual front-line police officers (not approved police positions) (a) located at the Coolangatta Police Station and Palm Beach Police Station for 2015 to 2023 (reported separately by station and year) and (b) rostered on at the Coolangatta Police Station and Palm Beach Police Station on 3 October 2023 (reported separately by station)?

**ANSWER:**

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades. The record \$3 billion plus police budget supports the rollout of 2,025 police personnel, including 1,450 police officers, over five years.

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.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that where the substantive headcount is below the number of approved permanent positions, the QPS endeavours to fill those vacancies as a matter of priority.

I am also advised by the QPS that a total of 2,016 recruits graduated between 1 January 2020 and 31 August 2023 and that as at 30 September, there were more than 500 recruits at the two police academies and there were more than 1,400 applicants in the pipeline.

To support the recruitment efforts of the QPS, the Palaszczuk Government has funded an unprecedented, almost \$90 million police recruitment package, including:

- a training allowance for current and new recruits on top of the current recruit wage of \$183 per fortnight;
- waving all application and pre-selection test fees, saving potential recruits between \$718 and \$972;
- waving Police Academy accommodation costs, saving potential live-in recruits almost \$200 per week;
- up to \$20,000 towards the higher education debt of up to 400 successful police graduates who hold a tertiary degree (Bachelor or above) in areas including psychology, criminology, social work (or equivalent), counselling or other human service related field;
- up to \$20,000 towards the relocation costs of up to 500 interstate and up to 500 overseas applicants who are serving or recently served police officers;
- a new initiative where staff members of the QPS who are accepted into recruit training will remain on their previous pay scale while training, capped at constable 1.1 pay level; and

- the 'Try it On' campaign, a recruit advertising partnership with the Queensland Police Union.

a) I am advised by the QPS that:

The substantive headcount at Coolangatta Division as at 30 June 2015 was 39 (against an approved strength of 36 positions), and as at 30 June 2016 was 41 (against an approved strength of 36 positions). The substantive headcount at Palm Beach Division as at 30 June 2015 was 37 (against an approved strength of 37 positions), and as at 30 June 2016 was 39 (against an approved strength of 36 positions). The QPS advise that the police actual headcount at Coolangatta and Palm Beach divisions was not available for 2015 and 2016 as it is a different dataset to substantive headcount and is only available from 2017 onwards.

The actual headcount for Coolangatta Division as at 30 June 2017 was 39 (against an approved strength of 35 positions), as at 30 June 2018 was 38 (against an approved strength of 35 positions), as at 30 June 2019 was 38 (against an approved strength of 35 positions), as at 30 June 2020 was 37 (against an approved strength of 34 positions), as at 30 June 2021 was 37 (against an approved strength of 34 positions), as at 30 June 2022 was 32 (against an approved strength of 32 positions), and as at 30 June 2023 was 34 (against an approved strength of 32 positions).

The actual headcount for Palm Beach Division as at 30 June 2017 was 34 (against an approved strength of 35 positions), as at 30 June 2018 was 36 (against an approved strength of 34 positions), as at 30 June 2019 was 36 (against an approved strength of 33 positions), as at 30 June 2020 was 32 (against an approved strength of 33 positions), as at 30 June 2021 was 31 (against an approved strength of 33 positions), as at 30 June 2022 was 36 (against an approved strength of 33 positions), and as at 30 June 2023 was 33 (against an approved strength of 32 positions).

I am further advised by the QPS that the reason for the decrease in approved strength in Coolangatta and Palm Beach Divisions between 2016 and 2023 is due to the decision of the QPS to reallocate positions within the Gold Coast Police District. I am informed by the QPS that 6 positions were reallocated to Robina Division, 1 position to Southport Division, 1 position to Gold Coast District Central Exhibits, and 1 position to Gold Coast District Vulnerable Persons Unit.

The member should also note that these numbers are divisional only and do not include the more than 530 other approved permanent positions allocated to district and central policing functions who work across the Gold Coast Police District. Collective of all divisional, district and central policing functions, there are more than 1,100 approved permanent positions located in the Gold Coast Police District which support service delivery across the District.

b) I am advised by the QPS that verified data relating to police officers rostered on duty at each Police Division to the level of detail referenced in the question would require manual review and interrogation of rosters. This is considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

In addition, I am advised there are a number of reasons the QPS does not release details of police rosters and the specific allocation of police resources to the community. The release of operational policing information has the potential to compromise officer safety,

as it means that information is in the public domain about methodologies and rostering practices of police personnel. This information could be used inappropriately to inform unlawful activity. I hope that the member would agree with the QPS that anything which compromises officer safety should be avoided.

On QPS advice, it should be clarified that a police roster is not an accurate reflection of the resources available to a police station at any one time. Police stations have the ability, when required, to draw on resources from other geographically close police divisions, sections, units or specialist groups including but not limited to the Criminal Investigation Branch, Tactical Crime Squad, Dog Squad, Highway Patrol or Task Force Guardian for youth crime related responses, to name a few. These additional resources are not reflected in a specific police station roster but are available to meet policing demand when required.

Keeping the community safe is a collective responsibility within the borderless policing model.