

Question on Notice
No. 1428
Asked on 15 November 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the approved strength, actual numbers and vacancies of sworn Police Officers at the Laidley, Lowood, Helidon and Gatton Stations in the Lockyer Electorate as at 1 July 2017 compared to current?

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 and that is as it should be. That was a direct outcome of the Fitzgerald Inquiry. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

The member should also note that the numbers provided below are divisional only and do not include the number of officers allocated to district and central policing functions which support service delivery across the Ipswich Police District and Darling Downs Police District within the Lockyer Electorate.

To effectively provide policing services to the Queensland community, police stations have the ability to draw on resources from other geographically close police stations or personnel from other district, regional and centralised support functions such as the Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection and Investigation Unit, Tactical Crime Squads, Road Policing Command, Dog Squad and Pol-Air, as and when required. Police districts also have the discretion and flexibility to move resources around as demand dictates to keep Queenslanders safe.

As with many organisations, there will be from time to time vacancies or additional personnel at workplace locations. Where vacancies exist, the QPS endeavours to fill those positions as a matter of priority. In addition, when retirements or other personnel movements are expected or planned, the QPS will at times locate additional personnel at these workplace locations to support the transition of those personnel. That may mean that a particular policing establishment may have more personnel than its approved strength on a specific date (for example, 30 June) for a period of time.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that for the Laidley, Lowood, Helidon and Gatton Police Divisions, as at 31 October 2023, the total approved permanent police positions was 64 and there were 2 vacant positions. As at 30 June 2017, the total approved permanent police positions was 58 and there were no vacant positions.