

Question on Notice
No. 901
Asked on 22 August 2023

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many police were rostered at Nambour, Maroochydore and Coolum Police Stations (reported separately by shift and by station) on Friday 7 July 2023?

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 verified data relating to police officers rostered on duty at the Nambour, Maroochydore and Coolum Police Divisions to the level of detail referred in the question, would require manual examination and interrogation of rosters and computer systems. I am further advised by the QPS that this is considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

In addition, I am advised by the QPS that 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 the member would agree with the QPS that anything which compromises officer safety should be avoided.

Upon QPS advice, it should also be clarified that a police roster is not an accurate reflection of the resources available to a police station at any one time. In addition to those officers on a station roster, a police station has at their discretion the resources of a number of specialist police groups that are brought in to attend to an incident or respond to a call. Teams such as water police, Tactical Crime Squad, Highway Patrol and specialist investigative units to name a few are not part of the police station roster.

Police stations also have the ability when required to draw on resources from other geographically close police stations or district offices should it be required to effectively provide policing services to the community. Police districts have the discretion and flexibility to move resources around as demand dictates to keep Queenslanders safe.

However, I appreciate the member's interest in the question and am advised by the QPS that workforce data is validated by the Human Resources Division at the end of each month.

Therefore, the information closest to that referred to in the question is available as at 30 June 2023. I am advised by the QPS that as at 30 June 2023 the substantive headcount for Coolum Division was 26, for Maroochydore Division was 94, and for Nambour Division was 29.

The member should also note that these numbers are divisional only and do not include the more than 400 approved permanent police officer positions allocated to other district and central policing functions who work across the Sunshine Coast Police District