

Question on Notice
No. 987
Asked on 24 August 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) what is the total number of active, non-active and administrative officers currently engaged at Southport Police Station (reported separately by those three categories) and (b) how many of those officers are currently on leave and (c) how many are engaged daily in domestic and family violence incidents, supporting the Watch House, supporting the Courthouse, and as first responders to incidents at the Gold Coast University Hospital?

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.

In relation to the member's question, I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) as follows:

- (a) As at 31 August 2023, the approved permanent positions for police officers for Southport Division was 100 and the substantive headcount was 107, and for staff members, the number of approved permanent positions was 11 and the substantive headcount for Southport Division as at 31 August 2023 was 12.

The member should also note that these numbers are divisional only and are included in the over 1,100 approved permanent police officer positions servicing the Gold Coast Police District.

The member should further note that these numbers do not include staff members allocated to Assistant Watchhouse officer positions. I am advised by the QPS that as at 31 August 2023, there were 15 staff members in Assistant Watchhouse officer positions at the Southport Watchhouse. Using staff members in this manner, enables police officers who might have otherwise been used to perform these duties, to be utilised in frontline policing activities.

I am advised that the terms "active" and "non-active" officers are not used within the QPS. Therefore, I am unable to provide a breakdown of the police officer headcount by those categories.

(b) & (c) There are a number of reasons the QPS does not release details of police rosters, which includes leave takings, 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.

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. 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, drug squad, homicide units to name a few are not part of the police station roster.

To compliment these factors, police stations 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.

It should be noted that Southport police station is a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week station providing counter services to the public. Additionally, all frontline police officers can be called to attend to domestic and family violence related incidents, they are also able to be deployed as required, to attend to calls for service and to support other policing demands, such as watchhouse, hospital prisoner guard and court duties.