

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 40**

**Asked on 14 February 2024**

**MR S MINNIKIN** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise the total number of undercover intercepts of taxi and ride share vehicles undertaken by Department of Transport and Main Roads officers in 2023 (reported separately by month)?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

The Miles Government continues to ensure that the operations of our state's personalised transport industry are safe, accessible, and protect passengers' rights as consumers. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertakes regular compliance activities in relation to personalised transport. These include uniformed and plain-clothes officers on road intercepts, and safety audits of participants in the chain of responsibility, for the delivery of personalised transport services.

In the 2023 calendar year, a total of 8820 personalised transport vehicles were intercepted by TMR as part of on-road enforcement activities. These intercepts resulted in 1543 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) and 486 vehicle defect notices being issued.

Prior to 1 July 2023, TMR did not differentiate between uniformed and plain-clothes officers' intercepts for data collection. In the last six months of 2023, TMR compliance staff in plain-clothes conducted 147 personalised transport intercepts, resulting in 54 PINs. These were all in relation to taxi services and vehicles, as follows:

- in July 2023, there were 53 plain-clothes officers' intercepts resulting in 12 PINs issued
- in August 2023, there were 16 plain-clothes officers' intercepts resulting in four PINs issued
- in September 2023, there were 14 plain-clothes officers' intercepts resulting in seven PINs issued
- in October 2023, there were 39 plain-clothes officers' intercepts resulting in 17 PINs issued
- in December 2023, there were 25 plain-clothes officers' intercepts resulting in 14 PINs issued.

It is not government policy to release operational details regarding on-road enforcement activities. However, I can advise the plain-clothes officers' intercepts focussed on enforcement of taxi driver behaviour requirements including the correct operation of taximeters (so as to prevent overcharging of passengers) and not unreasonably refusing the carriage of passengers. These intercepts have initially occurred in areas considered at higher risk of driver wrongdoing.