

Question on Notice
No. 454
Asked on 18 April 2024

MR D ZANOW ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many front-line full-time equivalent (FTE) police did the Ipswich QPS District have as at (a) 31 March 2021, (b) 31 March 2022, (c) 31 March 2023 and (d) 31 March 2024?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is currently undertaking the largest recruitment drive in its history to deliver 1,450 new police officers, in addition to the further 500 new police officers announced on 30 April 2024.

With the help of \$87.5M announced by the Queensland Government in April 2023 to fund marketing and offer a range of incentives and initiatives, the number of recruit applications has reached historic highs in 2024 and the foreseeable future for police recruiting is delivering upon plans. The QPS advise that as at 7 May 2024 there are 684 recruits-in training and over 2,240 in the recruitment pipeline.

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. This aligns with the outcome of the Fitzgerald Inquiry. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

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 QPS that the number of approved permanent positions allocated to police divisions within the Ipswich District (with a comparison to substantive headcount), for the requested dates, is as follows:

- (a) 261, with the substantive headcount being equal to or more than this number;
- (b) 275, with the substantive headcount being equal to or more than this number;
- (c) 289, with the substantive headcount being equal to or more than this number; and
- (d) 289, with the substantive headcount being eight below this number.

The member should also note that these numbers 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 District. QPS advises that, as at 31 March 2024, there were 245 approved permanent positions allocated to district and central policing functions in the Ipswich District.

I am advised by the QPS that 18 new police officers are planned to be deployed to the Ipswich District by 30 June 2024, and a further 32 are planned to be deployed in the six months following. The QPS further advises that an additional 40 approved permanent positions are projected for allocation to the Ipswich District over the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.