

## Question on Notice

No. 916

Asked on 21 August 2024

**MS A CAMM** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

### QUESTION:

With reference to defendants convicted of contravention DVO offences that have received the penalty of imprisonment/detention —

Will the Attorney-General provide (reported separately by year for the last three years), the average (a) sentence length and (b) time served

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

A contravention of a domestic violence order (DVO) is an offence under section 177 of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*. A person can be charged with an offence under this section if they contravene a condition of a domestic violence order that was made against them. The nature of the contravention may represent a range of behaviours depending on the particular condition of the order that was breached.

I am advised in relation to defendants convicted of contravention DVO offences that have received the penalty of imprisonment/detention that the average sentence length is as follows:

- for 2021-22, 5 months;
- for 2022-23, 5 months; and
- for 2023-24, 5 months.

This data relates to all sentences for a breach of a DVO in Queensland Courts, not just those that are the most serious offence at the time of sentencing. When considering sentencing for all breaches of DVOs, Queensland Courts data shows that imprisonment is the most common sentence for this offence.

In the current financial year to date (the two months of July and August 2024), imprisonment has accounted for 40% of all sentences for this offence.

I am unable to advise on the length of time served by defendants as this information is not held within the Courts database.