



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

2016-2017 Budget Estimates

Volume of Additional Information – Part 2

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

Questions Taken on Notice at hearing and Answers

2016
Estimates Committee
Question on Notice

MR MANDER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON W BYRNE) -

QUESTION:

In reference to page 30 of the SDS, Fire and Emergency Services, and the monitoring and reviewing of the disaster management guidelines; how much is that review estimated to cost?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that under Section 63 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, the QFES Commissioner is responsible for the preparation of guidelines and handbooks to support local and district disaster management groups to meet their legislative requirement to develop disaster management plans.

There are 49 disaster management publications requiring review and of these, 17 are guidelines.

QFES has prioritised the review of all guidelines to occur within the next three years. This work will be completed from within existing resources allocated under the current QFES budget.

**2016
Estimates Committee
Question on Notice**

MR MANDER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON W BYRNE) -

QUESTION:

What was the budget allocation and headcount allocation for 2015/16 and what is it for 2016/17 in relation to fire communication centres?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the annual budget for Fire Communication Services was \$13.737 million in 2015-16 and \$14.142 million in 2016-17.

I am also advised that the number of allocated full-time equivalents (FTEs) in QFES Fire Communications was 126.46 in 2015-16 and remains the same for 2016-17.

**2016
Estimates Committee
Question on Notice**

MR TIM MANDER, MP ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON W BYRNE) -

QUESTION:

What is the average salary received by Queensland firefighters in regards overtime per annum?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the salary of a Senior Firefighter is \$78,264 per annum, including allowances (weekend shift, night shift and 38 hour week allowance).

QFES estimates that operational firefighters receive approximately \$10,000 per annum in overtime, on average.

The expenditure on overtime falls within three broad categories of operational response, training and replacing staff on leave (staff shortages) to maintain service delivery.

The nature of the emergency services business requires scalability. Accordingly, QFES has the capacity to recall fire fighters to immediate duty to respond to emergencies, major incidents or natural disasters.

QFES is implementing strategies to reduce overtime without impacting on service delivery to the community.

2016
Estimates Committee
Question on Notice

MRS STUCKEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON W BYRNE) -

QUESTION:

In terms of cost recovery measures for irresponsible or foolish acts that result in rescues by emergency services, what is the government policy for recouping any costs? Is there likely to be a review as incidents increase?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that under the *Fire and Emergency Service Act 1990 (Act) Section 128*, QFES can raise an invoice for services provided. QFES has Business Rules and Schedules of Fees and Charges that identify the situations where fees are charged.

Fees are not charged in exceptional circumstances, where a person is rescued/extricated (normally in a mobile property incident) or for the services in the treatment of injuries of an entrapped person.

QFES currently charge for attendances where there is a malicious activity, where a breach of an Act or Regulation has contributed to the cause of the incident or where a person maliciously gives notification of an incident. There have been a limited number of invoices raised under these situations.

In situations such as where someone drives through a road closure and as a consequence QFES is required to provide a service, such as a swift water rescue, the matter can be referred to the Queensland Police Service to investigate whether an offence has occurred.

QFES constantly examines the contemporaneity of its policies and recommends changes as required.