1

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Can I take it that you will take on notice to report back to the Committee the number of individual officers who currently have a criminal record who are members of the New South Wales police force? We should probably do it that way rather than getting into a breakdown of the number of offences; just the number of officers who currently have a criminal record?

Mr MORONEY: And so that we can have some specificity to your question, are you referring to officers prior to their entry to NSW Police or post their entry?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: It would probably be an idea to give us both, based on what you just described?

Mr MORONEY: I will undertake to do that, subject to the issue that if they are spent convictions, they would of course be deleted in accordance with the legislation.

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

The data requested is not currently available from police information systems.

2

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

Can you outline to the Committee how many electronic access cards have been reported lost, misplaced or stolen in the past financial year?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

A review of Security Management Branch databases indicates a total of 45 electronic access cards, including 21 Police Officer access cards, were reported lost or stolen in the 2005-06 financial year.

It is protocol that all access cards reported lost or stolen to the Security Management Branch are immediately deactivated and computerised records 'flagged' as such. Security personnel are immediately alerted to any attempt to utilise those cards to gain access to a police building.

3

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

How many police stations were broken into during the 2005-06 financial year?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

Two.

4

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: How much you have spent on protected witnesses overall and specific amounts. It may not be just \$100,000, perhaps there is a \$20,000.

Mr BRADLEY: In the past financial year?

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Let us go back a bit further than that, because these cases take a while to run out. We will go for three years, please.

Answer:

The NSW Crime Commission has advised me:

In the period 2003-2006, there have been no witnesses who have been paid \$100,000 or more by the Commission in respect of their protection within the specified period.

The total amount of payments by the Commission to witnesses in the period was \$263,505.

It should be noted that in the 2005/06 financial year alone, the Commission laid 2,561 charges.

5

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon D Clarke MLC

Question:

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE: What was the total number of arrests for the year 2005-06?

Mr BRADLEY: I will have to take that on notice. Can I clarify that before we proceed? I am happy to take it on notice. You mean arrests made in relation to matters the subject of references to the Crime Commission?

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE: Yes. You might also like to take on notice the number of charges laid, the number of successful prosecutions, the value of assets confiscated and net proceeds from the sale of confiscated property.

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE: Could you see about getting those figures for the current financial year, for the past two or three months?

Answer:

The NSW Crime Commission has advised me:

Total arrests for the period 1 July 2005 - 31 August 2006 (14 months): 450.

Number of charges laid for the same period: 2,561. (Questions about court outcomes should be directed to the Attorney General.)

Value of Confiscation Orders:

2005-06:

\$30.4m, including \$14.5m to victims.

Year to date: \$2.7m.

Information about proceeds of sale is not usually held by the Commission as the Public Trustee conducts sales.

6

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

How many people have refused to answer questions during that (ie. the last) financial year?

Answer:

The NSW Crime Commission has advised me:

Two persons refused to answer questions during the past financial year.

7

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: How many taser stun guns are currently being utilised in the trial?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Can you explain to us why you have not been told for the past three months whether a taser stun gun has been used?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: How many times a taser stun gun has been used in the course of the operation so far? I am saying used on an offender, not carried on somebody's waistband. I am asking whether they have been used to effect an arrest of an offender? How many times have they been used to effect those arrests?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

The trial for the use of Tasers in public order and riot situations is continuing. This trial involves an examination of the experience of overseas agencies to determine the suitability of the use of Tasers in public order situations. Tasers have not been deployed by the Public Order and Riot Squad, nor will they be until the trial has been completed and their appropriate use determined.

During the 2005-06 financial year the Tactical Operations Unit, State Protection Group used Tasers 8 times, and State Protection Support Units used Tasers 3 times, to detain persons who were then handed over to Local Area Commands for further investigation, including the effect of arrests.

8

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Do you support the recommendations of Strike Force Emblem?

Mr MORONEY: They were recommendations made in 2004 by Detective Inspector Galleta. I will take the question on notice to provide a factual answer as to the current status of those recommendations.

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

The Strike Force Emblems investigation has been finalised. Proposals to address the content of Listening Device Warrants are currently being considered by the Attorney General.

9

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: What position did Larry Cook hold at the New South Wales police academy? Has an internal investigation into Mr Cook been carried out? If so, was the investigation carried out by Reg Mahoney?

Mr MORONEY: Mr Cook, who is now a former police officer, was a member of the instructional staff at the former police academy, now known as the New South Wales Police College. I understand that variously he was the subject of internal investigations. As to who the investigator was in that matter, I would need to take that on notice.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Has Mr Cooks' police medical records and other material on his police record been handed over to the Navy where Mr Cook now works? If so, were they handed over by NSW Police Education Services Commander Tony Aldred?

Ms LEE RHIANNON: If it did occur, do you see that as a breach of privacy?

Ms LEE RHIANNON: If the Navy did not request it but the information was forwarded for whatever reason, do you see that as a breach of privacy?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

Mr Cook was an instructor at the former police academy. During his service in NSW Police, Mr Cook was the subject of 12 complaint files, none of which were investigated by Assistant Commissioner Reg Mahoney.

As a result of legal proceedings brought by Mr Cook in order to receive a 'hurt on duty' police pension, it became apparent that he had advised his new employer, the Royal Australian Navy, that he had no medical issues, when in fact he has an extensive history of medical issues.

This apparent anomaly was brought to the attention of the Royal Australian Navy. As a result of Mr Cook's legal action, his history of medical issues remains a matter of public record.

10

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon Dr A Chesterfield-Evans MLC

Question:

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Can figures be provided on the success rate of warrants and convictions achieved in sniffer-dog operations in Sydney? Does this technique catch any dealers or suppliers as opposed to individuals carrying small quantities?

Mr CARL SCULLY: I will take that question on notice. It successfully detects drugs; I have seen it in operation. It is impressive.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: The Council for Civil Liberties apparently did a survey that showed that only one in five people identified by the sniffer dogs and searched were carrying drugs. Do you have a comment about that? What percentage of people who are stopped by a dog and searched have drugs?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

Police information systems are operational, not statistical, and do not track whether a Drug Detection Dog search results in convictions for either possessing or supplying drugs. Court outcomes are a matter for the Attorney General.

From 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006, drugs were located in 1923 (approx. 24%) of these searches, with recent possession of drugs admitted in a further 3956 cases.

11

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Mr Collins, just one quick question. I meant to ask you earlier but there has been such a break between the questions. You spoke earlier about the Taser stun guns and you mentioned that there are about 12 currently being utilised in the trial with the State Protection Group. Could you just tell me how many are actually being used by the Riot Squad in the trial?

Mr COLLINS: There is a bit of confusion in regard to the original question. If I can go back to the TAU unit—or the SPG, as we call it. They have had well practised arrangements in place for Taser guns for many years. In fact, they did trials on those and they have been using those for many years. I just need to clarify that is an issue. In terms of the Tasers that were allocated to the Riot Squad, there are around 12, to my understanding.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: And how many, therefore, does the State Protection Group have?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

As previously advised, Tasers have not been deployed by the Public Order and Riot Squad, nor will they be until the trial has been completed and their appropriate use determined.

The Tactical Operations Unit, State Protection Group currently has 16 Tasers on issue. There are an additional 21 Tasers on issue to the country-based State Protection Support Units.

12

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

How many officers are currently on permanent restricted duty?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

230 (as at 12 September 2006).

13

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

How many officers are on long-term sick leave?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

601 (as at 30 June 2006), including the 256 officers at Question 15 who have medical discharges pending.

14

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

How many officers have been medically discharged since 1 November 2005?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

274 (as at 31 August 2006).

15

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question:

How many police officers currently have medical discharge applications pending?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

256 (as at 31 August 2006).

16

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: In the past year how many officers have required their capsicum spray canisters to be refilled?

Mr CARL SCULLY: I would have to take that on notice.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: So, you would be able—and I appreciate you have to take it on notice—to give figures of how many police officers had required their capsicum spray canisters to be refilled in, say, 2005?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

Capsicum (OC) spray canisters are not refilled once their contents have been expended. Replacement canisters are provided direct to Local Area Commands by the contracted supplier as required, upon either depletion or expiry of contents.

17

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: When I asked you whether trained domestic violence officers were replaced when they went on leave you said that you believed so. Would you take that question on notice so that you can ascertain if that is the case? My questions arise from work I have done in the Hunter where it was raised with me that when these officers go on leave they are not being replaced.

Mr MORONEY: I am happy to look at a specific instance.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: I am asking in a policy sense. When those officers go on leave do you require that they are replaced? I am interested in the official position and then I will detail the actual police stations. I will follow up my specific areas and you can give me the general policy.

Mr MORONEY: Yes, I am happy to respond to that.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: I have been told by a domestic violence worker in the Hunter that a number of summonses and other court documents are not being served on perpetrators before the matter goes to court, which has resulted in cases being dismissed. It is said that the documents are piling up at police stations because of lack of staff to deal with the paperwork. The story I am getting is that there are serious problems with how domestic violence cases are being handled in court because of lack of resources and lack of police officers to handle it.

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

Leave management within a Local Area Command (LAC) is a matter for the Local Area Commander. Strategies used by LACs to deal with trained Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLOs) going on leave depend on the length of leave taken and number of DVLOs in the Command. Such strategies include replacement of the incumbent officer during leave periods by nominated back-up officers, to allow normal domestic violence procedures to continue while the incumbent is absent.

Summonses and court documents are generally being served within a reasonable timeframe in the Hunter area. Most LACs have a dedicated officer to deal with summonses and warrants. Northern Region reports no issues relating to staff shortages affecting the service of summonses and court documents.

18

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Minister, in the budget papers NSW Police has committed to an increasing emphasis on engaging business and local communities in identifying and responding to potential terrorist threats. An additional \$1.8 million is being put towards the maintenance of counterterrorist activities. What will the money be spent on?

Ms LEE RHIANNON: I may have misunderstood. I thought the \$1.8 million in counterterrorist activities was for the work with business and local communities.

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

The \$1.8 million will be allocated for the 2006-07 financial year as follows:

UNIT	PROPOSAL	\$ COST
SPG	Maintenance of CT Equipment - Rescue & Bomb Disposal	218,000
CTCC	Costs associated with CT Investigations	682,000
COMMS	Line Rental for Securing Radio Sites (NCTC)	197,000
COMMS	Supplementing Funding for GE Staff to support CT Operations	162,000
ASB	Increase funding for aircraft maintenance, fuel, etc re CT Operations	550,000

19

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: How many police recruits resigned within a 12-month period, say, in 2005 or 2005-06?

Mr CARL SCULLY: By way of clarification, by "police recruits" do you mean a police student who resigned before graduating or a probationary constable who resigned before becoming a constable?

Ms LEE RHIANNON: I will take the probationary constable.

Mr CARL SCULLY: You would like to know how many probationary constables who graduated but did not become a full constable resigned in the last 12 months?

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Yes.

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

From 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006, 37 Probationary Constables resigned.

20

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: How many police in total left the force in the same period?

Mr CARL SCULLY: Are you talking about the 12 months ending 31 August 2006?

Ms LEE RHIANNON: A 12-month period, say, 2005 or 2005-06, whatever is easier for you.

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

From 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006, 657 police officers left the force (including the 37 Probationary Constables mentioned in response to the previous question).

21

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Mr MORONEY: When we talk about exits we are talking of those who resigned, those who leave because they have been dismissed by the Commissioner of Police, and those who retire because they have the requisite years of service or some medical impairment. So the reason may be quite clear: dismissal, medical impairment, retirement due to age. I guess what you are talking about are those who resign to take up some other occupation or profession.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Yes, when they still have many working years ahead of them.

Ms McPHERSON: It is true there is a form, but there is also the opportunity for them to have an interview—if they so wish, as I said.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: How many take it up?

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

Since 22 August 2002, there have been 293 Separation Interviews and 349 Separation Questionnaires received by Human Resource Services. Separation Interviews are offered to terminating officers and are conducted at the local level by the Commander; however, it is not compulsory for the terminating officer to participate in such interviews.

23

Notice Given:

1 September 2006

Asked by:

Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question:

Ms LEE RHIANNON: What percentage of crime in New South Wales is committed by people from Middle Eastern appearance?

Mr CARL SCULLY: I will take that on notice, but I know that Ken McKay has told me often that the principal problem is in south-western Sydney and that the percentage of residents who are Middle Eastern is much, much smaller than the percentage that the members of that community cause and contribute to the levels of crime. It is quite out of kilter. It is not like X per cent is the number and then it translates across to the same percentage of crime. It is right out of kilter and that is why we have had to concentrate the specific squad with most of its work in south-west Sydney.

Answer:

NSW Police has advised me:

Police information systems are operational, not statistical and the question is not phrased in terms which enable an empirically precise response.