



**Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport
Minister for Police**

Mr John Evans
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

RECEIVED

22 NOV 2006

GPSC's

Dear Mr Evans,

Please find attached my answers to Police Budget Estimates Standing Committee No. 3, supplementary hearing Questions on Notice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Watkins'.

John Watkins MP
**Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport and
Minister for Police**

Question: 1 : PROBLEMS WITH XR8 FORDS

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

It has been brought to my attention that there are serious concerns by highway patrol members in relation to the suitability of the XR8 Fords for highway patrol work. I believe there are serious concerns regarding the vehicles while in pursuit and also severe smells of fuel in the cabin while the vehicles are driven. Highway patrol personnel tell me that the XR8s on occasions, particularly during pursuits when doing a turnaround after an offender, are stalling. Could you inform the Committee of the status of the matter involving the XR8s?

Answer :

I refer the Honourable Member to the NSW Police Media statement on this issue dated Friday 17 November 2006.

Question: 2 : XR8 FORDS

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

- a) How many XR8s are in service?
- b) How many Fords vs Commodores?
- c) Why were Fords chosen?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

- a) 198.
- b) 277 vs 85.
- c) In 2005, NSW Police via the Department of Commerce engaged 'police pack' vehicle manufacturers in a competitive tendering process. Ford was the successful tenderer and as a result, a greater number of vehicle orders were placed with that company.

Question: 3 : NUMBER OF HIGHWAY PATROL VEHICLES

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

How many Highway Patrol vehicles do we have statewide in New South Wales?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

362.

Question: 4 : NSW POLICE RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING BUDGET

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

What is your (NSW Police) normal annual budget for recruiting? For advertising.

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

Costs for recruitment advertising can vary considerably from year to year.

Question: 5 : POLICE OPERATION AT UNSW PARTY

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

Is it true that police told young people waiting to be picked up by their parents to move away from the University of New South Wales? You said that you were called in as a result of disturbances, violence. But is it not true that your police were there in the afternoon? Can you make that part of your investigations, to determine what police operations were earlier in the day as well as once the incident happened?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

An internal review of the police response into this incident is underway.

Question: 6 : COST OF TASERS

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon. J Jenkins MLC

Question :

What would be the cost of equipping every police officer with a Taser gun?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

There are no current plans to issue every serving officer with a Taser.

Question: 7 : WEIGHT OF POLICE UTILITY BELTS

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon J Jenkins MLC

Question :

With regard to the use of capsicum spray and Taser guns, the New South Wales Police Association has recommended the production of information on suitable weight-bearing belts. What is the weight of a belt and all its equipment—batons, capsicum sprays, handcuffs, Glocks?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

The weight of belt and appointments worn by NSW Police officers varies due to factors such as the size of the belt and additional items such as mobile phones and torches which may be carried by individual officers.

Question: 8 : RECRUITS - SACKINGS OR RESIGNATIONS?

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

Has it been practice at the academy that rather than forcing people to leave if they are deemed to be unsuitable because of conduct they resign and walk out the door with a clean slate, or has everyone found to have conducted themselves improperly for a host of reasons been sacked? Have they all been sacked or have some been given the option simply to resign?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

In the event of a student being found guilty of misconduct, their status of professional suitability is removed, either temporarily or permanently, commensurate with the seriousness of the misconduct.

If an allegation of misconduct is made, but the student resigns prior to the completion of the investigation into that allegation, the allegation is endorsed on their file and the student is not considered for re-entry to the Academy until the issue is satisfactorily resolved.

To ensure natural justice and transparency, a Student Professional Suitability Review Committee, comprising Professional Standards Manager, Corporate Services (Chair), Staff Officer Education Services and generally a Local Area Commander, can determine appeals from students who have had their status of professional suitability removed.

Question: 9 : RECRUITS - XMAS BREAK

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

How long is the Christmas break?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

Students in ADPP26 Session 2 will break for Xmas on Friday 22 December 2006, returning on Friday 12 January 2007 for academic and practical assessments and attestation parade preparations commencing on Saturday 13 January 2007.

Question: 10 : OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT RE DRUG DETECTOR DOGS

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

Which procedural operations did he (the previous Minister) support, which aspects?

Answer :

The Ministry for Police has advised me :

The following recommendations from the Ombudsman's report are supported in whole or in part (as noted below) by the Government :

ii

iii

iv

v (in part)

vi (already in practice)

vii (supported in principle)

viii

ix

x

xii

xvi

xvii

xviii

xix and xx (already in practice)

xxi

xxiv (already in practice)

xxv (duplicates xvii)

xxvi

xxvii

xxviii

xxix

xxx

xxxi (supported in principle, subject to discretion remaining with LAC Commander about the nature and extent of consultation with licensee)

xxxii

xxxiii and xxxiv (supported in principle)

xxxv (already in practice)

xxxvi (under consideration)

xxxvii (supported in principle)

xxxix

xl

xli

xlii (supported in part)

xliii (supported in principle)

xliv

xlv and xlvi (under consideration)

xlvii

xlix

l

li (supported in principle)

lii

liii

Question: 11 : COMMUNITY / COMPLAINANT SATISFACTION

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon J Jenkins MLC

Question :

I return to the figure I quoted of 40 per cent from your 2004-05 report. The source is "Community satisfaction with policing survey: NSW Police complaints handling system". So that is the source of that. The reason I asked that question is that the Standing Committee on Social Issues report 38 of June 2006 on Policing Strategies and Resources in the Macquarie Fields Area found there was a need to develop and support initiatives to prevent further disturbances in the area. I am aligning that 40 per cent with people reacting the way they feel they have been treated unfairly. The Macquarie Field area and Cronulla riots have seen resources allocated after the events. So the event has happened, and the resources have been allocated. Has the department identified potential areas of future conflict? In other words, are you aware of where the next area of conflict might be, and have you pre-allocated resources to the local area commands accordingly; or are you pre-empting what is potentially happening out there in consumer land?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

NSW Police continually analyses available information and allocates resources to ensure community policing needs are met. Issues such as socio-economic disadvantage are recognised contributing factors to criminal activity and civil unrest. Police work with community groups, government and non-government organisations to address these underlying causes of crime. Initiatives such as Police Accountability Community Teams and a range of joint consultative committees, currently in operation at Local Area Commands across the state, contribute to risk assessments and strategic planning.

Question: 12 : MACQUARIE FIELDS DVLOs

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon J Jenkins MLC

Question :

Let me ask you the next question. In the Macquarie Fields area there are approximately 200 complaints a month of domestic violence. There is only one police person allocated as the community services interaction person to handle those 200 complaints per month.

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

There are 5 domestic violence officers attached to the Macquarie Fields Local Area Command Domestic Violence Unit, in addition to a civilian support officer.

Question: 13 : COST OF LOAD-BEARING BULLET RESISTANT VESTS

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon J Jenkins MLC

Question :

Does the department intend to bring in load-bearing bullet-resistant vests and issue these to all officers? And, if so, what is the cost?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

There is currently no specification, design brief or development being undertaken on a load bearing bullet resistant vest for NSW Police.

Question: 14 : RANDOM DRUG TESTING

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon J Jenkins MLC

Question :

What is the time line for bringing in drug testing of drivers in New South Wales? Are we going to see saliva tests at some point in time? What drugs will you be testing for?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

A commencement date of early 2007 is anticipated for the drug testing regime. Drugs to be screened are cannabis, methamphetamine and ecstasy.

Question: 15 : POLICE PROPERTIES

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

Can you indicate how many properties are currently owned by New South Wales Police in your portfolio? Does that contract (with United Services Group) list all of the New South Wales Police property? If that is the case, could you also take on notice the full list of all properties owned by New South Wales Police and table it with the Committee? Given your earlier answer that you would take on notice how many were owned, do you know how many properties currently held by NSW Police contain operational police duties?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

NSW Police has 1,431 property assets of which 1,246 are owned and 185 leased.

It should be noted that a number of premises other than police stations do house operational police.

Question: 16 : COMPLAINTS BY RICHARD MCDONALD

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

Mr Scipione, the Ombudsman's report in January 2004 was critical of inspectors Moore, Douglass and Monk for failing to adequately act upon prior complaints of Richard McDonald. The Ombudsman also indicated that no good reason has been given for the delays. What advice did the police give to the police Minister on this matter in terms of responding to the Ombudsman's report?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

There is no record within the Professional Standards Command, the Command responsible for this matter, to indicate that a copy of the Ombudsman's report or NSW Police's response to the Ombudsman was forwarded to the Office of the Minister for Police.

Question: 17 : COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS :

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

- a) Policy re dual roles as mentor / reviewing officer
- b) Meaning of fax by Phil Brooks (McDonald matter)

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

- a) The role of mentor is not compatible with that of reviewing officer as there would be a clear conflict of interest in holding those two positions concurrently.
- b) While the use of the word 'mentor' in Sergeant Brooks' fax was unfortunate, during his review the Sergeant clarified his position as being a 'point of contact' by agreement with Mr McDonald.

Question: 18 : MACQUARIE FIELDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISPUTES

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon J Jenkins MLC

Question :

Of the 200 domestic violence disputes per month, which is what was reported, how many of those are repeat disputes? Presumably, there would be a high incidence of repeat disputes? How many of those disputes are attended by a domestic violence officer?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

There were 1420 recorded domestic violence related incidents within the Macquarie Fields Local Area Command in the period 1 May 2006 - 31 October 2006. However, 745 (52.4%) of those were cases where there was no offence or were verbal argument incidents only. It should also be noted that, where an offender is arrested on multiple charges, each offence is recorded as a separate incident.

Statistics sourced from the Crime Management Faculty Unit for the period April - September 2006 show 287 individuals who are recorded as being involved in domestic incidents on 3 or more occasions as either a complainant or person of interest. This data also includes the 'no offence' incidents as mentioned above.

Domestic violence officers do not attend all domestic violence incidents; however, they review the appropriateness of police attendance and where necessary initiate an appropriate response. The Macquarie Fields Local Area Command is also currently involved in the Attorney General's Department Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model project which addresses these issues via a whole-of-Government approach.

Question: 19 : COST OF SECURITY AT BULLDOGS GAMES

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon D Clarke MLC

Question :

In relation to additional police security at Canterbury Bulldogs games in March this year, the police Minister indicated that it was important that there be proper cost recovery on behalf of taxpayers. What has been the total reimbursement to NSW Police by the Bulldogs Rugby League Club since that date? Are you aware if there has been any reimbursement at all? Would you also take on notice what amount is still outstanding? Also, what cost per officer is the club being charged?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

Total reimbursement of \$4,032 (excl. GST) has been made to NSW Police by the Bulldogs Rugby League Club Ltd since March 2006. An additional \$160,588 (excl. GST) has been recovered from relevant sporting grounds for police services associated with Canterbury Bulldogs games. There is no outstanding amount. The Club is charged a standard rate of \$72 (excl. GST) per officer per hour.

Question: 20 : POLICE MEDAL ELIGIBILITY

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: The Hon D Clarke MLC

Question :

Mr Scipione, can you outline to the Committee the reasons for denying former police officers who retired prior to 2002 and who had previously served for more than 10 years, the police medal? How many officers are estimated to fall into the eligibility category?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

Accurate figures are not available in relation to the numbers of police who would otherwise be eligible for the medal if the 2002 commencement date did not apply.

The Commissioner is currently reviewing eligibility criteria for this medal.

Question: 21 : SNIFFER DOG OPERATIONS

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

- a) How many sniffer dog operations were undertaken on NSW borders in 2004 and in 2005?
- b) How many people, targeted in these operations, received a positive response from a police sniffer dog in 2004 and 2005?
- c) How many of these people were detected with drugs?
- d) How many of these people were charged and what penalties were imposed?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

- a) 9 operations were conducted in 2004 and 2005.
- b) 313 positive responses were made by a police sniffer dog in 2004 and 2005.
- c) 141 vehicles screened had illegal drugs located.
- d) 139 charges were laid by police.

Question: 22 : MCDONALD MATTER

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

- a) Are you aware that the NSW Ombudsman report of 16/1/04 stated 'I recommend that the NSW Police reconsider taking appropriate steps to acknowledge the unnecessary stress caused to Mr McDonald by NSW Police as a result of the delays and poor management in dealing with his matters'?
- b) What is the Police Minister's response to this recommendation?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

Whilst it is acknowledged that there was a delay in the referral and finalisation of Mr McDonald's matters, the delay cannot reasonably be fully attributed to poor management of the complaint by NSW Police. A number of correspondence reviews and assessments took place at the time due to Mr McDonald continually submitting new complaints or restating old matters. Hence it would be simplistic to assess those delays merely on the dates without examining the extenuating circumstances involved.

Question: 23 : POLICE OPERATION AT UNSW

Notice Given: 16 October 2006

Asked by: Ms L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

- a) When will the report of the NSW Police into police operations at and around the UNSW Roundhouse on the evening of Wednesday October 11 be finalised?
- b) Will the report be released to the public?
- c) If it will not be released to the public, why will it not be released?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

An internal review of the police response into this incident is underway.