

Question on Notice
No. 263
Asked on 23 March 2021

MR D LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise in respect of Police sworn staff the levels of sick leave by police establishment (station or location) in terms of (a) personnel and (b) total number of days for each month since January 2020?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that, to extract the information requested in terms of police establishment, such as station or location, police personnel and the total number of days for each month since January 2020, would require a manual interrogation of data from multiple sources. As such, the provision of this information is considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

However, I am advised by the QPS that the table below provides an average number of sick leave days taken per police officer across 2020. The QPS has advised that these figures are based on an inclusive sick leave measure, which includes leave classified as sick, carers, work cover and sick leave bank.

Police	19/20 Jan – Mar (Q3)	19/20 Apr – Jun (Q4)	20/21 Jul – Sep (Q1)	20/21 Oct – Dec (Q2)
	AVERAGE SICK DAYS PER QUARTER	AVERAGE SICK DAYS PER QUARTER	AVERAGE SICK DAYS PER QUARTER	AVERAGE SICK DAYS PER QUARTER
	3.88	3.45	4.14	3.64

I am further advised by the QPS that the sick leave quarterly figure for March 2020 is consistent with other agencies and that it reflects people staying home, working from home, not using public transport and having limited social interactions during the global health pandemic.

Further, the QPS has advised that quarterly Police sick leave takings generally peak in the July - September quarter when colds and flus are most prevalent. I am also informed by the QPS that sick leave takings for Police were lower during the September 2020 quarter due to a relatively mild cold and flu season nationwide as a result of good hand hygiene, the wearing of face masks, social distancing and other COVID-19 restrictions.