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Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2023-24 Budget Estimates Hearings

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Minister for Police, Anthony Carbines MP
Committee Member:	Mr Nick McGowan MP, Deputy Chair
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Relevant text (from transcript):

Mr N McGOWAN: Minister, when you expect those other cameras? Do you have a date when you think those other cameras will actually be in place?

Mr CARBINES: It is really just mostly a contract, manufacturing and then placement. So we have got three that are on the road. I am happy to provide further details of the timing of the others –

Mr N McGOWAN: That would be great. If you could take that on notice, that would be much appreciated.

Answer:

In June 2023, Victoria Police will roster distracted driving camera hours with three camera trailers already deployed and operational.

From July 2023 onwards, an additional three camera trailers will be deployed, for a total of six camera trailers in operation.

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Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Patton
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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Relevant transcript text:

Danny O'BRIEN: Can I then go back, Chief Commissioner, to mental health. How many hours do police spend transporting patients with mental health conditions where police attendance is not required to manage safety and security risks, it is literally just the sole purpose of attending to transport mental health patients?
Shane PATTON: I do not have those figures off the top of it, sorry
Danny O'BRIEN: Does the police force keep that data? Could we get it on notice?
Shane PATTON: We will see if we can get it, yes.

Answer:
Under the *Mental Health Act 2014* (the Act), section 351 (1) police may only apprehend a person "to prevent serious and imminent harm to the person or to another person".

 Victoria Police records data for section 351 Mental Health Transfers. However, rather than 'total hours', the data captured is the number of incidents by length of 'time on scene' (recorded to the nearest 30 minute interval) police were involved, from the time the police attend an incident to the eventual hand over to a medical professional within the meaning of the *Health Services Act 1988* for further assessment. There is a legislative requirement for police, who have apprehended a person under section 351 of the Act, to accompany that person to a hospital or health service. Police cannot leave the person with Ambulance Victoria paramedics and must stay with the person until responsibility for the person is transferred to a registered medical professional at a hospital or health service. The section 351 data captured by Victoria Police aligns with this requirement and time associated with transporting the subject is not recorded separately.

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Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Patton
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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Relevant transcript text:

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. Likewise, do you keep data on the total hours spent attending to mental health issues? The first question was about simply transporting. Is there data on transporting and responding to security and safety issues with mental health patients?
Shane PATTON: We would keep that, yes.
Danny O'BRIEN: And you do not have it on you at the moment?
Shane PATTON: No, not that I believe.

Answer:
'Mental health issues' is a wide-ranging description and not a 'type of involvement' category used, or dataset maintained by Victoria Police.

Victoria Police does not record 'total hours' however does record data for section 351 Mental Health Transfers instances. As shown in the below table, the data captured is the number of incidents by length of 'time on scene' (recorded to the nearest 30 minute interval) police were involved, from time the police attend an incident to the eventual hand over to a registered health professional for assessment of the subject at a hospital or health service, regardless of the number of police members in attendance.

Section 351 Incidents – Police 'Time on Scene'

Time on Scene	Number of incidents					
Interval length	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 YTD March*
0.5 HOURS	450	429	424	365	280	84
1 HOUR	1,882	1,969	2,281	1,887	1,268	337
1.5 HOURS	2,392	2,666	3,307	2,642	1,854	471
2 HOUR	2,005	2,341	3,005	2,884	2,115	531
2.5 HOURS	1,022	1,259	1,386	1,539	1,189	266
3 HOUR	757	1,059	1,196	1,415	1,205	254
3.5 HOURS	346	466	513	653	551	115
4 HOUR	317	432	463	669	547	129
4.5 HOURS	141	228	208	334	280	60
5 HOURS	145	191	217	328	287	47
5.5 HOURS	61	72	82	145	131	21
6 HOURS	85	102	112	154	163	28
6.5 HOURS	59	86	75	131	108	7
MORE THAN 6.5 HOURS	120	159	148	303	332	56
Total Incidents	**9,782**	**11,459**	**13,417**	**13,449**	**10,310**	**2,406**

*The data provided for 2023 is year-to-date up until 31 March 2023.

Note:
- Police time data is recorded to the nearest 30-minute interval. Separate intervals above 6.5 hours are not captured separately.
- Data is based on member selecting 'Psychiatric Crisis' (section 351) as a type of involvement in L42 (Mental Disorder Transfer) forms.

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