

Questions Taken on Notice

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Acting Chief Commissioner of Police, Robert Hill
Committee member:	Mr Richard Welch
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Relevant text:

Richard WELCH: Could you advise, commissioner, what number of police officers are on workers compensation or extended sick leave at the moment?

Robert HILL: I can share with the committee that approximately 700 members of our workforce are on WorkCover. That consists of our sworn officers, our VPS and our protective services officers.

Richard WELCH: Are there any others on other forms of leave?

Robert HILL: Well, we always manage through any calendar year the provision of our recreational leave and also long-service leave entitlements to our members. Also members are able to take unplanned leave and other leave, including carer's leave, parental leave and so on.

Richard WELCH: Does that include extended sick leave in those numbers?

Robert HILL: No. The approximately 700 members of our workforce who are on WorkCover does not include those that are on extended leave. This is only the WorkCover entitlement.

Richard WELCH: So how many are on extended sick leave?

Robert HILL: I have not got that data in front of me, Member, I do apologise, but that would be able to be made available if required.

Richard WELCH: Could you provide that on notice? If you could, just say yes for the record.

Robert HILL: Yes, we can do that.

Answer:

As at 31 May 2025, 233 of Victoria Police's workforce have been on personal leave for 28 continuous days or more¹.

¹ Source: Victoria Police HR Assist

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Acting Chief Commissioner of Police, Robert Hill
Committee member:	Mr Nick McGowan
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Relevant text:

Nick McGOWAN: Thank you very much. Thank you, Minister, and thank you, Acting Chief Commissioner. [Acting Chief Commissioner, just a couple of quick questions: have VicPol been asked to give any advice in respect to an intersection redesign at Heathmont village?](#)

Robert HILL: Not that I am aware of.

Nick McGOWAN: Are you able to find out for me at some point?

Robert HILL: Yes, I can.

Answer:

Victoria Police has not been consulted in relation to an intersection redesign at Heathmont Village.

Portfolio:	Police
Witnesses:	Acting Chief Commissioner of Police, Robert Hill & Acting Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Regulatory Services, David Butler
Committee member:	Mr Nick McGowan
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Relevant text:

Nick McGOWAN: Thank you very much. In respect to an earlier conversation, Mr Welch was referring to the number of officers that are on WorkCover, and then I think you took up on unplanned leave. [Do you know what you are budgeting for in terms of how many days of unplanned leave for this coming financial year?](#)

Robert HILL: Not off the top of my head. I will refer to the Deputy Secretary, if I may, who might be able to enlighten you.

David BUTLER: No, sorry, I do not have that at hand.

Nick McGOWAN: That is okay. Do you mind getting that for me? One of the most predominant issues I hear from those on the ground is unplanned leave is a very big problem for any workforce of course but particularly for police officers. If somebody does not rock up for their shift, it makes life difficult for everyone. So I would appreciate that.

Answer:

Due to the nature of 'unplanned leave,' which are unscheduled absences from work that is not pre-approved or planned by the employer such as sick leave, carers leave, compassionate leave, it is not practical for Victoria Police to budget for unplanned leave days.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Acting Chief Commissioner of Police, Robert Hill
Committee member:	Mr Nick McGowan
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Relevant text:

Nick McGOWAN: Thank you, Acting Chief Commissioner. Are you able to share with me how many sworn officers we have down at Box Hill, Forest Hill and Ringwood?

Robert HILL: At what particular time?

Nick McGOWAN: As of today, if we can, but the most recent you have for those three stations.

Robert HILL: Across our 333 police stations –

Nick McGOWAN: I am just interested in those three. I am being a little bit selfish, if you will forgive me.

Robert HILL: I could not give you an accurate number of police that were at those police stations today.

Nick McGOWAN: I mean the positions of sworn officers that have not been fulfilled.

Robert HILL: I can share with you that the vacancy rate across our metropolitan police stations ranges between 5 to 15 per cent, in some cases 20 per cent.

Nick McGOWAN: Okay. I understand it is 15 at Box Hill. These are figures that are commonly known. I would appreciate to know how many in, as I said, Ringwood, Forest Hill and Box Hill – although I think I know Box Hill.

Answer:

The number of vacancies as at 12 June 2025 for each station are the following:

Box Hill – eight (8) positions (of which one (1) position has been filled but has not commenced yet)

Forest Hill – nine (9) positions (of which three (3) positions have been filled but have not commenced yet)

Ringwood – 10 positions (of which four (4) positions have been filled but have not commenced yet)

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Acting Chief Commissioner of Police, Robert Hill
Committee member:	Mr Nick McGowan
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Relevant text:

Nick McGOWAN: Okay. I understand it is 15 at Box Hill. These are figures that are commonly known. I would appreciate to know how many in, as I said, Ringwood, Forest Hill and Box Hill – although I think I know Box Hill. Likewise, PSO hubs – why is there not a PSO hub at Heathmont train station?

Robert HILL: Infrastructure, you mean?

Nick McGOWAN: Yes.

Robert HILL: My understanding is that we have got infrastructure to provide the PSO deployment to the 219 police stations across metropolitan Melbourne and that four rural locations are in place.

Nick McGOWAN: *There is nothing at Heathmont train station. Are you able to look into that for me?*

Robert HILL: Well, my understanding is that there is a hub at that location.

Nick McGOWAN: I was there myself, Acting Chief Commissioner. There is no PSO hub there, I can assure you.

Robert HILL: Well, I will then take that on notice.

Answer:

There is a PSO Pod at Heathmont Railway Station which is internal to the station and not a stand-alone structure. The Pod is generally occupied by PSOs from 6:00pm through to the last train – seven (7) days a week.

Portfolio:	Police
Witnesses:	Minister for Police, Anthony Carbines & Acting Chief Commissioner of Police, Robert Hill
Committee member:	Mr Aiv Puglielli
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Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you, Chair. Good evening. Can I ask: how many civil cases have been filed against Victoria Police in relation to police misconduct in the last five years?

Answer:

The initiation of a police tort (civil writ as defined in the Victoria Police Act) does not necessarily equate to police misconduct having occurred. There are many instances where events subject of a writ or claim have been investigated externally by IBAC and/or Victoria Police's Professional Standards Command with investigation outcomes determining no misconduct occurred.

Number of Writs and Pre-Litigation Claims by Financial Year¹

Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	YTD 2024-2025 ²
Claims	66	71	69	64	75

Notes:

1) Given the protracted nature of some litigated matters, the year in which a matter is received or initiated does not necessarily correlate directly to the year it is resolved/settled, or when the incident itself occurred.

2) Data as at 10/06/2025

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Minister for Police - Anthony Carbines
Committee member:	Mr Aiv Puglielli
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Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you. That would be appreciated. If you can, in that search, [how much was paid in settlement for these cases – if that can be disclosed – and how much did it cost the state to provide the defence for those cases?](#)

Anthony CARBINES: If I might, on the amounts, that is probably legally privileged, but in relation to the broader number, that is something that we could look to provide.

Answer:***Civil Litigation Financial Settlements by Financial Year (\$ Million)¹***

<i>Year</i>	<i>2020-2021 (\$m)</i>	<i>2021-2022 (\$m)</i>	<i>2022-2023 (\$m)</i>	<i>2023-2024 (\$m)</i>	<i>YTD 2024-2025² (\$m)</i>
Settlement Amounts	\$6.7	\$15.3	\$6.9	\$8.8	\$8.8

Notes:

1) Some amounts include plaintiff legal costs. It is not possible to split these out as there is not visibility of these for all in the payouts.

2) Data as at 02/04/2025

Information regarding costs to the state to defend the cases is obtained from the Whole of Victorian Government Legal Panel Contract. The Department of Justice and Community Safety lead and manage this contract.