

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE – Police and Emergency Services

QUESTION	Provide a record of fines issued and spot checks conducted by LGA
Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
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Relevant text:

Mr RIORDAN: Can you confirm, with the fines and the issuing fines: have you been recording that by location or local government area or some other matrix to sort of get a sense of where the efforts have been put? Is that recorded and is that a public document?

Chief Comm. ASHTON: Yes. Well, we certainly have got the ability to know the locations of fines, so we can certainly put that together by LGA if necessary.

Mr RIORDAN: So that is available. Would you be able to provide that on notice?

Chief Comm. ASHTON: We could put that data together, yes. But would you want it by LGA or by any other geographic—

Mr RIORDAN: LGA would be fine, yes. I think it is mainly recorded under that.

Chief Comm. ASHTON: And is that just fines or checks?

Mr RIORDAN: Fines and checks, please.

Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

Victoria Police has attached a breakdown of issued infringements by LGA over the COVID-19 period (see Attachment A).

The data provided in Attachment A has been extracted from Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) data and is the only efficient process available to provide a breakdown of data by LGA as requested. This is not settled crime statistics agency data and may change.

Victoria Police notes this data does not match the recorded total number of fines reported to the committee via the Fines Victoria VIEW database. This is because there is a lag between the two data sources (LEAP & VIEW) due to the different mechanisms and pathways for transmitting infringement information from the issuing work unit.

Spot Checks by LGA cannot be provided as ability to capture location data was not available during this period. The process to sort by LGA would exceed Victoria Police capacity to manually calculate at this time. The outcomes would be proportionally inconsistent with the number of infringements during the same period in any given LGA and would potentially lead to confusion about any inconsistencies.

QUESTION	Provide a record of fines issued relating to “Forest Protesters illegally entering timber harvesting safety zones” (non-essential travel)
Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton
Committee member:	Mr Danny O’Brien
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Relevant text:

Mr D O’BRIEN: Chief Commissioner, can I ask how many fines have been issued to forest protesters who have illegally entered timber harvesting safety zones?

The CHAIR: Mr O’Brien, in the context of the terms of reference of the Inquiry?

Mr D O’BRIEN: In the context of COVID-19, Chair. Fines for—

Ms VALLENCE: Non-essential travel.

Mr D O’BRIEN: Yes. Thank you.

Chief Comm. ASHTON: What I will do is I will include that with the breakdown of fines issued by LGA data that I am providing on notice. I will include that for you.

Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

One incident has been recorded relating to a “Forest Protesting”.

The infringement issued was for “Failure to comply with a direction or a requirement made of a person in the exercising of a power under an authorisation given under section 199” of the *Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008*. The penalty notice recorded a fine of \$1,652.00.

QUESTION	How many reports to the Police Assistance Line have resulted in spot checks being conducted, and how many have resulted in a fine being issued by Victoria Police?
Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence
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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Thank you, Minister and Chief Commissioner, for your appearance to this hearing. My questions first are to the Chief Commissioner, and just to pick up on some questions before, of other Committee members, Chief Commissioner, how many reports to the Police Assistance Line have resulted in spot checks being conducted, and how many have resulted in a fine being issued by Victoria Police?

Chief Comm. ASHTON: Well, the actual break-up of how many fines were issued as a result of Police Assistant Line calls I have to take on notice and provide you with that break-up. I could certainly give you the total number of fines, which we have done, which is the 5604. But those have risen—

Ms VALLENCE: Yes, specifically for the PAL. As you will take that on notice, that is much appreciated for the benefit of the Committee.

Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

As at 17 May, 69,234 calls were received via Police Assistance Line (PAL), including 4,907 in relation to possible isolation breaches, 4,722 in relation to possible business breaches, 20,755 in relation to possible prohibited gatherings and 38,902 in relation to other COVID-19 matters. These reports have been triaged by Sworn PAL and ADF resources, including when appropriate being sent to ESTA (000) for dispatching to frontline resources.

It is not possible to link calls directly to specific infringements and it is likely that multiple calls are received via PAL for a single event to which members are dispatched and results in an infringement.

QUESTION	What is the cost of the surge uplift to PAL during COVID-19
Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence
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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Thank you. Just finally on that, perhaps on notice, Police Commissioner, if you could provide the cost for that surge uplift—if you could provide the cost of those additional resources over that period, for the benefit of the Committee.

Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

Serco is the Police Assistance Line (PAL) and Online Reporting (OLR) service provider. Victoria Police is working with Serco to monitor demand on a weekly basis and roster resources accordingly. Costs for this uplift in service are within the available Victoria Police PAL budget allocation and is subject to changing patterns of demand. A transition to a business-as-usual model for the coming months is currently being developed.