

Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Police, Shane Patton
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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Relevant text:

Mr D O'BRIEN: Okay. Chief Commissioner, in the budget have you been allocated any funding for upgrades or rebuilds of Broadmeadows, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Prahran, Malvern, Wollert, Hamilton, St Kilda, Clayton, Benalla, Point Cook, Drouin, Coleraine or Rokewood stations?

Chief Comm. PATTON: Off the top of my head, I do not believe we have, no.

Mr D O'BRIEN: Okay. Are you happy to take that on notice?

Chief Comm. PATTON: Yes, I will, but I do not believe we have.

Response:

No funding was provided in 2020-21.

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Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Police, Shane Patton
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence
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Relevant text:

Mr D O'BRIEN: So apart from being confident, what actual targets or what actual strategies are you employing to recruit more volunteers, operational volunteers in particular?

Ms NEVILLE: Well, I am not sure if you heard what I just spoke about before, but extensive investment in training, extensive investment in PPE—

Mr D O'BRIEN: How much in the next four years?

Ms NEVILLE: Well, \$126 million into the CFA, just on—

Mr D O'BRIEN: In training alone?

Ms NEVILLE: Sorry?

Mr D O'BRIEN: In training?

Ms NEVILLE: No. There is a package, and the CFA are working with the VFBV. Of that package there are at least 15 stations, there are 50 new dual-cab fire trucks, appliances—

Mr D O'BRIEN: That is capital. What is the training component of that—training and recruitment?

Ms NEVILLE: I cannot give you that breakdown here.

Mr D O'BRIEN: Are you able to find out—

Ms NEVILLE: If I can add anything, if there is a breakdown, I will provide it to the committee.

Response:

Of the \$126m CFA package, there is \$39 million over five years in funding for an increase in training capacity for the CFA. The funding is for volunteer training and includes:

- Crew leader training
- Investment in professional trainers
- Low voltage fuse removal training program
- Safe working from heights training program
- Alternative power systems training program

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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Thank you very much, Chair. Chief Commissioner, we will just go back to what we were discussing before about the booze buses. There was \$322 000 reported to investigate the failures and faults of the booze buses. Will that full amount be recouped, or will the taxpayer be footing that bill?

Chief Comm. PATTON: Well, on what I have been briefed, we are not being charged any moneys at all and the reality is this is being funded by the persons who developed the bus. So they are remediating it and it is not at a cost to Victoria Police.

Ms VALLENCE: So no spend at all to Victoria Police to date on investigating and remediating?

Chief Comm. PATTON: No, that is what I have been briefed—that we are not being charged anything at all and that they are going to foot the bill in effect.

Ms VALLENCE: Okay. All right. Is it possible to go and check that and confirm that on notice?

Chief Comm. PATTON: Yes, for sure.

Response:

Victoria Police can confirm there is no cost for remediation, this will be borne by the supplier.

There will be a cost incurred by Victoria Police for the investigation. We cannot provide details due to commercial in confidence arrangements.

Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence
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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Okay. In terms of budget paper 3, at page 104, the money towards the fire services reform implementation over the forward estimates, how much of that will be invested in Fire Rescue Victoria?

Ms NEVILLE: So that includes \$126 million for the CFA. In addition to that there is also, of the remaining money, there was money for the integrated brigades so that we could have enough space for volunteer space. There were improvements to that. There was also funding to employ additional commanders in order to ensure the CFA had enough commanders. It is not completely like for like, because once you had put everyone over and seconded back you had commanders who used to look after both CFA career and volunteers, so we had to work our way through that. So they are a significant investment—I think it is another 16. There are additional assistant chief fire officers for the CFA and additional commanders—

Ms VALLENCE: So in terms of the breakdown then for Fire Rescue Victoria, are you able to advise the committee what amount to that element?

Ms NEVILLE: If I can do that, I will provide that information to the committee.

Response:

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) will receive \$91.6m over four years for fire services reform implementation. \$1.0m in asset funding is also allocated to FRV to fund any required replacement of equipment or appliances resulting from the reforms.

Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Police and Emergency Services
Witness:	DJCS Secretary – Ms Rebecca Falkingham
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence
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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Thanks, Minister. And will most of the funding—like the supplemental funding provided by DJCS to the CFA and MFB in the 2019–20 period, which is featured in the annual reports—go all to employee expenses?

Ms FALKINGHAM: We have not yet finalised that, Ms Vallence, so we will provide that when it is available in the breakdown that you have required.

Response:

The Government has invested an additional \$250 million over 5 years for the fire services. This is made up of a \$126 million CFA capability package and \$124 million package for implementation costs arising from the new fire services model.

The CFA capability package includes funding for volunteer training, 16 new stations and 50 new appliances. The implementation package primarily relates to implementation initiatives rather than existing employees and associated expenses.

The fire services reform implementation funding is different to the supplementary funding provided by DJCS to CFA and MFB in 2019-20 which relates to expenditure for the enterprise agreement, major events and other programs. Providing supplemental funding to fire agencies is normal practice, especially after a significant fire season.