

## Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Patton
Committee member:	Mr Nick McGowan
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### Relevant transcript text:

**Nick McGOWAN:** It does not mean you will be quick in answering them of course. Are you able to tell me how many times VicPol have been called out, in the periods we are talking about, to either Malmsbury and/or Cherry Creek, realising that Cherry Creek is latter in terms of the period we are looking at?

**Shane PATTON:** No, I do not. I do not have those figures, no.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Would you mind providing those to us later? For the years that are under review.

**Shane PATTON:** If they are able to be provided, I will.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Okay.

**Shane PATTON:** We will explore whether we can provide them. I mean, often it will just be a call-out via a communication centre to us and our members will attend, so there may be records kept locally, but we will chase that up and if we can, we will.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Okay. I do not have a great understanding of the database. But as Commissioner can you ask – if I want to know how many times VicPol have been called to Malmsbury, is it as simple as asking for a report on a time period and call-outs, and then you sort of go through what the call-outs are for? It could be that somebody is locked out through to there has been a crime committed.

**Shane PATTON:** I will certainly ask the question. I do not know whether we will get the level of detail you need, but I will try to provide it for sure.

### Answer:

Cherry Creek Youth Justice Centre became operational in August 2023 and therefore there is no data for the review period. The number of Call and Dispatch (CAD) events recorded at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre is provided below:

**Table: Number of Call and Dispatch (CAD) Events recorded at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre in the review period**

Year	Number of CAD Events
2021-22	15
2022-23	20

- (a) CAD events include instances where an internal or external police attendance is required. Internal attendance includes instances where police enter the facility, while external attendance involves police patrolling around the perimeter. Examples of internal attendance includes incidents where Victoria Police attend with Ambulance Victoria and Fire Rescue Victoria in response to disturbances, assaults and escape from custody. Examples of external attendance includes vehicle interceptions and calls for people acting suspiciously.

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Portfolio:	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Witness:	Chief Commissioner Patton
Committee member:	Ms Ellen Sandell
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**Relevant transcript text:**

**Ellen SANDELL:** Thank you. A question for the Chief Commissioner of Police. Good morning. Victoria Police uses sniffer dogs at various places to detect if people are carrying illegal drugs – music festivals and other places. If the dog detects a substance, VicPol can then strip search or search someone, but recent data out of New South Wales shows that sniffer dogs were incorrect 75 per cent of the time – that is, 75 per cent of the time a sniffer dog detects that they are carrying a substance a subsequent search determines that they actually were not carrying a substance. Do we have that data for Victoria about how many searches are taking place and how many actually positively detect a substance?

**Shane PATTON:** I do not have data with me, but certainly at music festivals and the like where we use our PAD dogs we have the details of the amount of people that we search and if drugs are located on them.

**Ellen SANDELL:** Okay. So that data does exist? It is kept by VicPol?

**Shane PATTON:** I am sure it exists, yes. We would be retaining that. If you are seeking that data, if we can provide it, we will of course. But whether that is recorded centrally or whether you have to trawl back through each separate music festival or each separate search to get it – but if it is achievable, we would certainly provide it.

**Ellen SANDELL:** You are happy to take that and provide that if possible?

**Shane PATTON:** Yes.

**Ellen SANDELL:** Thank you. In New South Wales I know they collect that data by, for example, the number of children searched, the number of Aboriginal people searched. Do we disaggregate our data that way?

**Shane PATTON:** Yes. We differentiate it.

**Answer:**

Victoria Police is able to provide data relating to the number of searches conducted at music festivals events which involved a Passive Alert Detection Dogs (PADD) operation. However, searches may be initiated either due to a PADD indication of the presence of drugs or through police observations of overt behaviours. The data available does not distinguish between the search initiation reason.

**Table: Searches conducted at music festivals in the review period**

Year	Searches	Searches resulting in the location of drugs	Searches that did not result in the location of drugs
2021-22	654	282	372
2022-23	277	120	157

Notes:

- (b) The table does not include data for one of the four regions due to data capture irregularities.

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Searches initiated that do not result in the location of drugs is not an indicator of an 'incorrect' PADD indication. If a person is carrying drugs, odour will permeate into their clothing and remain after the drugs have been removed leaving a residual odour, PADD will indicate on this residual odour.

Music festival operations are managed by the local area in which the operation is conducted, and data is not centrally recorded.

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Portfolio:	Department of Justice and Community Safety
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**Relevant transcript text:**

**Nick McGOWAN:** On a separate issue – I am going to run through these things because I have got limited time – are you able to provide some sort of update in terms of how much we would have spent on overtime to man protests in the period under review? Protests of any kind – I do not care what they are protesting.

**Shane PATTON:** Yes, hang on. I will see if I can come up with them. I know that on average – when you say ‘time’, that will be difficult to work out.

**Nick McGOWAN:** I am only talking about overtime that was –

**Shane PATTON:** Yes. On average we would do in the city area, which is the predominant area where the protests occur, over 400 protests each year. I often describe Melbourne as the protest capital of the world, because we do have them happening all the time. In recent times, since we have seen the tension in the community through the conflict that is occurring in the Middle East, we have had 126 rallies occur since 7 October. Measuring actual time – that would I think be virtually impossible to us. As I said, I have given you the broad numbers, because it depends – I mean, the other weekend, not last weekend but the weekend before, we had 45,000 people protest in the city – and it is subject to how long a protest goes for and all of that.

**Answer:**

In relation to sworn resources attending protests Victoria Police cannot provide the complete costs for overtime specifically for protests. While Victoria Police has data for all event control activities for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 review periods, these figures are understated as they do not include overtime for officers who were on regular shift duties and were subsequently deployed to assist at protest events. Overtime arising from these scenarios would be captured as part of regular shift duties overtime and would not be assigned to specific duties.