

ATTACHMENT A

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Request for information – Police and Emergency Services

QUESTION 1

The number of COVID-19 restriction fines by LGA

Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

As at 23 August 2020, Victoria Police has issued 19,324* fines for COVID related offences. In May 2020 the then CCP took on notice to provide infringement data at LGA level based on an assessment that this was operational police data rather than crime statistics information.

Further consultation on this matter with the Crime Statistics Agency has confirmed that infringement information to this level is crime data and therefore, Victoria Police is only able to confirm the aggregate number of infringements.

**This information is from the Fines Victoria VIEW system and provided by Department of Justice and Community Safety.*

QUESTION 2	Details of Operation Ribbon, including the amount of checks of known family violence victim survivors and perpetrators, individuals remanded, and family violence offences detected in the course of the checks
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Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

- Operation Ribbon has been initiated to ensure family violence remains an operational focus and priority during this period.
- Operation Ribbon commenced on 13 April 2020 and progressively rolled out across the state by 20 April 2020.

Table 1.1 - Operation RIBBON statistics (as at 23 August 2020)*

	Total
Affected Family Member Contacts	12,887
Perpetrator Contacts	5,376
Total Contacts	18,264
Total Time (Hours)	12,487

Note: Operation Ribbon statistics are from the period 13 April 2020 – 23 August 2020). The information is operational data only and should be used for illustrative purposes only. Offences arising from Operation Ribbon is entered into Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) and becomes part of the information the Crime Statistic Agency are responsible for publishing.

QUESTION 3	Provide the latest figures on the amount of compliance checks on individuals and businesses and the number of fines issued along with the percentage of compliance checks resulting in fines
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Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

As at 23 August 2020, Victoria Police has made 319,955 COVID related compliance checks which resulted in 91% of these checks being found compliant.

Tasking	As at 23 August 2020
TOTAL	319,955
Total Compliance Checks	292,678
Percentage Compliance	91%

Note: The above data is operational Victoria Police data compiled from the COVID-19 Tasking App and is reported from the Operation Sentinel Dashboard, it is subject to change and amendment. The data was extracted on 26 August 2020.

QUESTION 4

Outline what the baseline figure was regarding the increase in permits to acquire firearms at the outset of the pandemic, the timeframe over which the 100% increase occurred and whether it related to the acquisition of firearms only?

Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

- In March 2020, Victoria Police observed an increase in firearms Permit to Acquire (PTA) applications received.
 - In the week beginning 4 March 2020, 1,190 PTAs were received
 - In the week beginning 18 March 2020, 2,383 PTAs were received (a **100.3% increase** from 4 March 2020)

Note: *The above information was sourced from the Licensing and Registration System. This information was collated on the 17th of May 2020 and confirmed on 26 August 2020 as correct.*

QUESTION 5	The number of calls to the Police Assistance Line and reports using online portal
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Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

Table: Number of calls to the Police Assistance Line (PAL) and Online Reporting (OLR)

Daily Profile	PAL Calls	COVID-19 OLRs*
CUMULATIVE TOTAL	119,104	35,654

Source: PAL & OLR Data Provided by Corporate Statistics Unit, Victoria Police 23-AUG-2020

Footnote: *COVID-19 OLRs are COVID 19 breach reports only. Cumulative totals for OLRs have been recorded since **10 April 2020**, all others cumulative totals have been recorded since **20 March 2020**.

QUESTION 6	The number of person checks and infringements that have been issued though Operation Shielding.
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Answer:

Victoria Police Response:

The total number of offences recorded from 28 March to 23 August was 19,324*.

As per previously advised, Crime Statistics Agency has confirmed that infringement information to this level (breakdown of type and issued through specific operations) is crime data and therefore, Victoria Police is only able to confirm the aggregate number of infringements.

Table 1. Checks conducted by Operation Sentinel and Operation Shielding from 28th March to 23 August 2020.

Tasking	Checks - Total
TOTAL	319,955
Operation Sentinel	39,454
Operation Shielding	5,140
Other	275,361

Note: Data extracted from Operation Sentinel Dashboard via Corporate Statistics Unit, Victoria Police on 24 August 2020. ^Other are all other Victoria Police units that do not fall under the Operation Sentinel or Shielding tasking, this includes, but not limited to general duty members, Operation Benessere, Operation Sanus, Vehicle Checkpoints, etc.

**This information is from the Fines Victoria VIEW system and provided by Department of Justice and Community Safety.*

QUESTION 7**Of fines given out for breaches of restrictions, how many have been paid, cancelled and requested for review?**

Answer:

DJCS Response:

- As at 25 August 2020, 19,866 fines have been issued for breaches of COVID-19 related restrictions.
- Of these fines:
 - 882 fines have been paid in full, and a further 1,688 fines have been entered into a payment arrangement
 - 1,551 fines have been withdrawn or cancelled
 - 1,726 fines have been requested for review, including 528 requests for the matter to be determined in court.