



**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**  
**SAFER COMMUNITIES**



**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Your Ref :  
Our Ref: 23-0949  
Enquiry:  
Telephone: 7322 3347  
Facsimile: 7322 4180

Hon. Ms Laura Curran MLC  
Parliament House  
Adelaide SA 5000

Email: [lungisa.bickle@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:lungisa.bickle@parliament.sa.gov.au)

Dear Hon. Curran

**Re: Freedom of Information Act application**

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

*“Please provide copies of all documents containing the following information: The number of SAPOL officers and their families that utilise mental health services per year.”*

On 31 October 2022, I had a telephone conversation with Ms Bickle regarding the scope of your request. She confirmed that you were not seeking all documents as stated, just the last part of your request. Further via email on 22 November 2022, she advised you were seeking recent figures within the last year. She narrowed the scope to:

*“The number of SAPOL officers and their families that utilise mental health services per year.”*

SAPOL has located a document that falls within the scope of your request. The document is numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23.



**Government of  
South Australia**

**Service Integrity Leadership Collaboration Courage Respect**

South Australia Police, GPO Box 1539, Adelaide SA 5001 ABN 93 799 021 552 [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au)



SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE		
No.	Document Description	Status
1	The Number of SAPOL Officers utilising mental health services per year	Full Release

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at [https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf](https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf). If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 23 December 2022.

Yours sincerely



Senior Sergeant Paul Friend  
**Freedom of Information Unit**  
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

23 November 2022

**The number of SAPOL officers and their families that utilise mental health services per year.**

- For the first three quarters of the 2021/22 financial year (July 2021 – March 2022) Corporate Health Group (SAPOL external provided – Employee Assistance Program) facilitated 696 confidential consultations with SAPOL employees and/or their immediate families. This is compared to 533 the previous corresponding period in 2020/21. For context, the increase in consultations is largely for repeat consultations while initial consults have remained steady.
- SAPOL also has an Early Intervention Program (EIP) to assist members through the early stages of their injury. The program is available to those members who require treatment but have not lost time from work. Treatment options are provided without necessarily needing to submit a workers compensation claim. The EIP team has assessed 150 reports of primary psychological injury in the 21/22 financial year to date. Ninety four members were assisted with ‘recovery at work’ services using SAPOL’s EAP/EAS, EIP, and reconditioning programs. Fifty six were assisted with making a workers compensation claim and referred to early recovery supports such as:
  - Dedicated recovery consultant or mental health occupational therapist to develop functional ability and restore capacity in work, life, leisure and social skills.
  - Exercise Physiology to improve mood, sleep quality, and decrease the risk of physical injuries related to poor mental health (e.g. cardiovascular injuries)
  - Psychology services with a focus on first responder injures and trauma-informed care.