



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Your Ref : 20633892
Our Ref: 25-1572
Telephone: 8207 5555



Email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

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:

“Any data on the length of time that police officers have spent accompanying offenders they have brought in to hospital over the previous four financial years (19/20, 20/21, 21/22, 22/23) and data on how many mental health patients that SAPOL has taken to hospitals over the same period.”

South Australia Police (SAPOL) has located information that falls within the scope of your request and agree to **release this information to you in full**.

In relation to this part of your request:

“Any data on the length of time that police officers have spent accompanying offenders they have brought in to hospital over the previous four financial years (19/20, 20/21, 21/22, 22/23).”

Specific data on the length of time police have spent in Treatment Centres after conveying either a person in custody or a person who has been charged with an offence is not readily accessible.

Data is available on the total number of hospital delays (police in emergency departments) over the given period, however, this relates to a combination of:

- Police Prisoners; and
- Persons detained by Police under Section 57 of the Mental Health Act (2009)



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South Australia Police, GPO Box 1539, Adelaide SA 5001 ABN 93 799 021 552 www.police.sa.gov.au



This data is provided below:

Total delay time in Emergency Departments when police have conveyed to hospital:

2019/2020	667 hours
2020/2021	916 hours
2021/2022	1370 hours
2022/2023	1185 hours

Gross total: 4138 hours

Total number of delay incidents in hospital emergency departments:

2019/2020	420	Average delay time 1 hour 35 minutes
2020/2021	681	Average delay time 1 hour 21 minutes
2021/2022	867	Average delay time 1 hour 35 minutes
2022/2023	785	Average delay time 1 hour 31 minutes

Gross Total: 2753 hours
Gross Average delay time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Note:

The Mental Health & Emergency Services Memorandum of Understanding (2023) states:

“On presentation at hospital triage, a 30 minute benchmark will commence for handover between SAPOL/SAAS and ED Clinical staff.”

This is irrespective of triage category, custodial or status under the *Mental Health Act 2009*.

The above delay times are calculated from the expiration of the 30 minute benchmark.

In relation to this part of your request:

“Data on how many mental health patients that SAPOL has taken to hospitals over the same period.”

Police conveyances to Approved Treatment Centres (Hospitals)

2019/2020	1175
2020/2021	1411
2021/2022	1725
2022/2023	2442

Gross Total: 6753*

**This total includes police prisoners and persons detained under Section 57 of the Mental Health Act (2009)*

Disclosure Log


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-Logs.pdf.

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 13 January 2025.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Senior Sergeant Kelly Johnson
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

10 December 2024