



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Your Ref : 20343843
Our Ref: 25-1058
Telephone: 7322 3347
Facsimile: 7322 4180



Email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Freedom of Information Act application – Letter of Notice

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 past year. Data on how many mental health patients that SAPOL has taken to hospitals over the last year.”

On 18 October 2024 I contacted your office to seek clarification with regards to the first part of your request. On 21 October 2024 your office advised the first part of your application related to offenders brought in to hospital pursuant to the Mental Health Act.

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 past year.

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.



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



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Data is available on the total number of hospital delays (police in emergency departments) in a 12 month period, however, this relates to a combination of:

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

This data is provided below:

- Total delay time (gross) in hospitals when police have conveyed (Date range 1.7.23 – 30.6.24) - **1430 hours**
- Total number of delay incidents in hospital emergency departments during above period - **629 delay incidents**
- Average time when delayed – **2 hours 33 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 last year.”

Police conveyances to Approved Treatment Centres (Hospitals) (Date range 1.7.23 – 30.6.24) - **2566 conveyances**

Note:

- This includes police prisoners who have not yet been charged with an offence and persons detained under Section 57 of the Mental Health Act 2009.
- The above figure does not include police prisoners who have been charged with an offence and conveyed to Hospital for a mental health assessment from Police Cells (Fit for Custody).

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 29 November 2024.

Yours sincerely



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

24 October 2024