



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Your Ref : 20343843
Our Ref: 25-1058
Telephone: 8207 5555



Dear 

Re: Freedom of Information Act application – ADDENDUM

On 29 October 2024 you were issued with a determination in relation to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), for the following:

“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.”

IMPORTANT: Please be advised there was an administration error with the information provided to you in your determination. We subsequently provide the amended statistics below as highlighted in red font:

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.

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



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This data is provided below:

- Total delay time (gross) in hospitals when police have conveyed (Date range 1.7.23 – 30.6.24) - **1264 hours**
- Total number of delay incidents in hospital emergency departments during above period - **743 delay incidents**
- Average time when delayed – **1 hour 42 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) - **2538 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, a copy of this addendum 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.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Yours sincerely



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

10 January 2025