



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



**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Our Ref: 25-1958  
Your Ref: 20882869  
Telephone: 8207 5555



Email:

Dear

**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:

*"I would like the records/documents that show the exact number of serving, and former serving South Australian police officers who have made workplace cover claims for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I would like the records/documents that show the exact number of workplace cover claims regarding their PTSD that were approved, compared to the number of officers who were denied a workplace claim for PTSD. Please also provide briefings and attachments and reports relating to police suffering PTSD. Please limit the last financial year (2023/2024) and the previous financial year (2022/2023). To be clear, I am not looking for the records/documents of each individual claim. I would like to know the exact number of officers who have made workplace claims for PTSD, how many of those officers were approved for those claims, and how many officers who were not approved for those claims. Including (but not limited to): Documents showing the number of serving/former serving officers who have asked for mental health support through the SAPOL Employee Assistance Program. Documents showing the number of current officers who are on leave (covered) for PTSD Documents providing the reasons for and against SAPOL either approving or denying workplace claims for PTSD Please note, I do not consent to documents being deemed irrelevant without consultation. Documents and data can be provided as retrieved - I do not need to wait until all documents have been collected before receiving them."*

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



**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)



In relation to these parts of your request

*“I would like the records/documents that show the exact number of serving, and former serving South Australian police officers who have made workplace cover claims for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I would like the records/documents that show the exact number of workplace cover claims regarding their PTSD that were approved, compared to the number of officers who were denied a workplace claim for PTSD.”*

and

*“I am not looking for the records/documents of each individual claim. I would like to know the exact number of officers who have made workplace claims for PTSD, how many of those officers were approved for those claims, and how many officers who were not approved for those claims.”*

and

*“Please limit the last financial year (2023/2024) and the previous financial year (2022/2023).”*

In **2023-24** FY SAPOL received **21** new claims for **PTSD** from sworn officers under the *Return to Work Act 2014*

Accepted	Rejected
14	7

In **2022-23** FY SAPOL received **16** new claims for **PTSD** from sworn officers under the *Return to Work Act 2014*

Accepted	Rejected
12	4

In relation to this part of your request

*“Please also provide briefings and attachments and reports relating to police suffering PTSD. Please limit the last financial year (2023/2024) and the previous financial year (2022/2023).”*

and

*“To be clear, I am not looking for the records/documents of each individual claim.”*

SAPOL hold no documents relative to this part of your request other than those that are considered personal to an individual which you have specified as not what you are seeking.

As SAPOL hold no documents relative to this part of your request, this part of your application holds no review rights. Should you be dissatisfied, a complaint can be made to the Ombudsman under the *Ombudsman Act 1972*.

In relation to this part of your request

*“Including (but not limited to): Documents showing the number of serving/former serving officers who have asked for mental health support through the SAPOL Employee Assistance Program.”*

**Employee Assistance Program Consultations (Sworn officers)**

<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
284 initial consultations	272 initial consultations

In relation to this part of your request

*“Documents showing the number of current officers who are on leave (covered) for PTSD.”*

As of 31 January 2025, there were **26** individuals on approved leave, certified medically unfit to undertake duties because of PTSD.

In relation to this part of your request

*“Documents providing the reasons for and against SAPOL either approving or denying workplace claims for PTSD.”*

and

*“To be clear, I am not looking for the records/documents of each individual claim.”*

The reasons in which an individual is approved or rejected for a WorkCover claim for PTSD is determined by the eligibility requirements as stipulated in the *Return to Work Act 2014* as follows:

- the individual must meet the definition of “worker”;
- the worker must have a diagnosed injury or illness which is supported by medical evidence from a qualified healthcare professional;
- the PTSD must arise out of or in the course of employment; and
- employment must be the significant contributing cause of the diagnosed injury.

Where the above criteria are not met, the return to work claim is rejected.

Justification relating to an individual’s approved or rejected WorkCover claim is not provided as it is considered out of scope of your request and would lead to the identification of the injured workers and SAPOL breaching their obligation to maintain confidentiality under the *Return to Work Act 2014*.

**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](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 7 April 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)

5 March 2025