

Written Reply

19. Mr T C R Walters to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

With regard to the latest available SAPS resourcing data for the province:

- (a) (i) How many police officers should be deployed in the province based on best-practice police-to-population ratio and (ii) how many are currently deployed, (b)(i) what is the number of police officers based on best-practice police-to-population ratios that should be deployed at each police station in the province and (ii) how many SAPS members are deployed at each station, (c) how does the SAPS handle staff shortages in high-demand areas in the province and (d) what are the specific implications of insufficient staffing for the SAPS in the province (for example response times and crime prevention efficacy)?

THE MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY WAS INFORMED AS FOLLOWS:

The reply of the South African Police Service (SAPS):

19. (a)(i) The question refers to determining the ideal number of South African Police Service (SAPS) officers that should be deployed in a specific province based on a recognised police-to-population ratio. This ratio is a common benchmark used globally to assess whether the police has enough personnel to effectively maintain law and order.

Internationally, the United Nations recommends a police-to-population ratio of 1:450. However, this benchmark may not fully address the specific needs of areas with high crime rates or unique challenges. In the Western Cape, particularly in high-crime precincts, achieving a lower ratio (i.e., more officers per capita) may be necessary to effectively manage and reduce crime.

Determining the optimal number of police officers for deployment in the Western Cape involves analysing current police-to-population ratios,

population densities, spatial layout and infrastructure, understanding local crime dynamics, and considering international best-practice benchmarks. This process is performed, amongst others, during the completion of the Station Post Requirement (SPR). Addressing the existing shortfalls and inequalities in distribution is crucial for enhancing public safety and ensuring effective law enforcement across the province.

The allocation of human capital is constantly monitored by Human Resource Management (HRM) to ensure the equitable distribution of available personnel to all stations, particularly to high- crime areas.

(ii) 16 339 SAPS Act members

(b)(i) Refer to response on question 1(a)

(b)(ii)

		b(ii)				b(ii)	
No.	STATIONS	Station	Actual	No.	STATIONS	Station	Actual
1	Albertinia	34		30	Dieprivier	51	
2	Ashton	48		31	Doring Bay	36	
3	Athlone	162		32	Durbanville	106	
4	Atlantis	194		33	Dysselsdorp	43	
5	Barrydale	34		34	Eendekuil	32	
6	Beaufort West	188		35	Elands Bay	26	
7	Belhar	82		36	Elsies River	161	
8	Bellville	254		37	Fish Hoek	60	
9	Bellville South	60		38	Franschhoek	38	
10	Bishop Lavis	224		39	Gans Bay	58	
11	Bonnievale	42		40	Genadendal	35	
12	Bothasig	48		41	George	250	
13	Brackenfell	86		42	Goodwood	103	
14	Bredasdorp	79		43	Gordons Bay	40	
15	Caledon	118		44	Graafwater	32	
16	Calitzdorp	39		45	Grabouw	82	
17	Camps Bay	28		46	Grassy Park	132	
18	Cape Town Central	397		47	Groot Brakrivier	39	
19	Ceres	147		48	Groot-Drakenstein	37	
20	Citrusdal	58		49	Gugulethu	207	
21	Clanwilliam	57		50	Harare	207	
22	Claremont	132		51	Heidelberg(C)	54	
23	Cloetesville	74		52	Hermanus	140	
24	Conville	120		53	Hopefield	40	
25	Da Gamaskop	115		54	Hout Bay	54	
26	Darling	34		55	Kensington	56	
27	De Doorns	62		56	Khayelitsha	368	
28	De Rust	37		57	Kirstenhof	63	
29	Delft	311		58	Klapmuts	40	

	STATIONS	Station Actual	No.	STATIONS	Station Actual
59	Klawer	32	106	Philippi	135
60	Kleinmond	37	107	Philippi East	177
61	Kleinvelei	181	108	Piketberg	58
62	Knysna	200	109	Pinelands	53
63	Kraaifontein	303	110	Plettenberg Bay	133
64	Kuilsrivier	193	111	Porterville	53
65	Kwanokuthula	65	112	Prince Albert	45
66	Kwanonqaba	91	113	Prince Alfred Hamlet	82
67	Laaiplek	34	114	Ravensmead	137
68	Ladismith	93	115	Rawsonville	59
69	Laingsburg	50	116	Redelinghuys	27
70	Lambertsbaai	42	117	Riebeeck West	35
71	Langa	100	118	Riversdale	65
72	Langebaan	39	119	Riviersonderend	35
73	Lansdowne	80	120	Robertson	123
74	Leeu Gamka	39	121	Rondebosch	57
75	Lentegeur	174	122	Saldanha	68
76	Lingelethu-West	124	123	Samora Machel	102
77	Lutzville	37	124	Saron	34
78	Lwandle	101	125	Sea Point	81
79	Macassar	64	126	Simons Town	31
80	Maitland	53	127	Somerset West	161
81	Makhaza	104	128	St Helena Bay	41
82	Malmesbury	109	129	Stanford	30
83	Manenberg	157	130	Steenberg	113
84	Mbekweni	75	131	Stellenbosch	224
85	McGregor	34	132	Still Bay	35
86	Melkbosstrand	35	133	Strand	138
87	Mfuleni	323	134	Strandfontein	42
88	Milnerton	185	135	Struisbaai	35
89	Mitchells Plain	440	136	Suurbraak	28
90	Montagu	58	137	Swellendam	91
91	Moorreesburg	54	138	Table Bay Harbour	39
92	Mossel Bay	83	139	Table View	143
93	Mowbray	45	140	Thembalethu	118
94	Muizenberg	100	141	Touws River	39
95	Murraysburg	31	142	Tulbagh	75
96	Napier	31	143	Uniondale	79
97	Nuwerus	31	144	Vanrhynsdorp	34
98	Nyanga	386	145	Villiersdorp	58
99	Ocean View	72	146	Vredenburg	124
100	Oudtshoorn	270	147	Vredendal	110
101	Paarl	233	148	Wellington	114
102	Paarl East	154	149	Wolseley	44
103	Pacaltsdorp	61	150	Woodstock	114
104	Parow	157	151	Worcester	339
105	Philadelphia	28	152	Wynberg	158

- (c) The South African Police Service (SAPS) handles staff shortages in high-demand areas through several key strategies:

Deployment of Tactical Units – SAPS deploys specialised units such as the Tactical Response Team (TRT), Public Order Policing (POP), and Flying Squad to high-crime or high-demand areas.

Resource reallocation – Human and physical resources may be temporarily transferred to high-demand areas to strengthen policing efforts.

Reservist and other police programmes – SAPS utilises reservists and community-based crime-fighting initiatives, such as the Community Police Forums (CPFs) and neighbourhood watches, to assist in law enforcement.

Recruitment and training accelerations – The Service increases recruitment efforts and expedites training to fill vacancies more quickly.

Use of technology and intelligence – SAPS leverages technology such as surveillance cameras, drones, and evidence policing practices to maximise efficiency with limited personnel.

Inter-agency collaboration – SAPS works with other law enforcement organisations as force multipliers to address high crime areas, such as gang-related violence or protests.

- (d) The shortage of SAPS personnel significantly impacts response times, crime prevention efforts, weakened investigations and case backlog, officer well-being, and public trust. Addressing these shortages through recruitment, better resource management, and technology-driven policing is crucial for maintaining law and order.
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