

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Gaming Reform

Member for Murrumbidgee

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 5

11 April 2025

Question No. 336

MS MORRIS: To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services —

1. How many police officers attended the hit and run incident outside St Edmund's College and subsequent apprehension near Manuka shops on Friday, 28 March 2025.
2. What station/where were the officers dispatched from.
3. How long did it take for each dispatch to arrive, and from which location, after the incident was reported to police.
4. What powers do police currently have in relation to vehicle pursuit.

MARISA PATERSON MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Approximately 53 ACT Policing members attended the hit and run incident outside St Edmunds College across the two scenes on Friday 28 March 2025. 41 of those members attended within the first hour of the incident occurring. Please note, this data was extracted from ACT Policing's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and Police Real-time Online Management Information System (PROMIS) records. The number of ACT Policing members may be revised slightly if investigations reveal members were not logged onto the systems at the time.
2. Members that responded were from the following stations/areas:
 - Proactive Policing (Hume)
 - Road Policing (Hume)
 - Woden Police Station
 - Tuggeranong Police Station

- Criminal Investigations (Gungahlin and Winchester)
 - Belconnen Police Station
 - Territory Targeting Team (City)
 - Tactical Response (Specialist Protection Command Majura)
 - Canine Team (Specialist Protection Command Majura)
 - City Police Station
3. The first ACT Policing unit arrived on scene at St Edmunds approximately one minute after the first report was received. Patrols were active in the area at the time in response to reports related to the vehicle prior to the St Edmunds incident and subsequent vehicle crash.
4. Police powers to pursue, stop, search and seize vehicles come from a range of legislation including the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*, the *Crimes Act 1900 (ACT)*, and road transport legislation in the ACT. ACT Policing officers must also comply with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Commonwealth)*. ACT Policing officers also must be cognisant of relevant NSW legislation due to the cross border nature of their operating environment. Pursuits are classified as priority driving within ACT Policing and officers are empowered to do this through section 305 of the Road Transport (Road Rules) Regulation 2017 (ACT) which exempts police from road transport legislation offences.

Application of these powers is governed by internal Australian Federal Police policy which places primacy on the sworn duty of a police officer to protect life over the need to apprehend offenders, irrespective of the offence that has been committed or the purpose of the interception. There are also strict requirements around the training and internal licensing of higher level driving skills that support police duties including pursuits.

The primary consideration of police officers engaging in the interception or pursuit of a vehicle must be the safety of the public, bystanders and other road users not involved with the incident, the police officers involved in the incident and the occupants of the vehicle being pursued.

Therefore, pursuits are not the primary means of apprehending occupants of fleeing vehicles and may only be initiated or continued in circumstances where the risk of not initiating or continuing a pursuit outweighs the real and potential risks associated with conducting the pursuit.

That is, police officers must only initiate or continue a pursuit when they believe the overall harm they are seeking to prevent is greater than the risks involved in conducting the pursuit.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

M. Paterson

Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

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12/5/25
Date:

This response required 5hrs 30mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$522.03.

