

Chapter 2 How frequent are assaults on public officers?

2.1 Introduction

This chapter, together with the following two chapters of this report, explores key issues that have informed the Council's understanding of assaults of public officers and its views about whether the current legal framework in Queensland is appropriate to respond to this form of offending, or is in need of reform. Questions explored were:

- How common are assaults on public officers, and what types of offences are most commonly charged when a public officer is assaulted based on sentencing data? (Chapter 2)
- Who commits assaults on public officers (by gender, age and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status) and what types of public officers are the victims of such assaults? (Chapter 3)
- In what circumstances are public officers assaulted and what are the relevant contextual factors? (Chapter 4).

In responding to these issues, the Council has drawn on a range of data sources and research including:

- a literature review commissioned by the Council undertaken by the Griffith Criminology Institute that reported on evidence around the causes, frequency and seriousness of assaults on public officers, as well as any evidence of the impact and outcomes of these reforms;
- data on reported incidents of assault and WorkCover claims, including the type of injury reported and amount claimed;
- courts data on sentencing outcomes for serious assault under section 340 of the *Criminal Code*, and summary offences that may be charged where an assault has been committed on a public officer;
- an analysis of a sample of sentencing remarks for serious assault cases sentenced in the higher courts; and
- consultation with stakeholders on relevant issues, such as potential factors contributing to demographic trends.

2.2 Findings from the literature – incidence of assaults on public officers

The Council has had the benefit of considering the Griffith Criminology Institute's literature review, which provides an overview of academic literature on the incidence of assaults on public officers, the findings of which are summarised below.

Overall, estimates of the prevalence of, and trends in, assaults against public officers, are not easily made. Different data sources, different definitions of violence, and different time periods make it difficult to compare different types of public officers. Although most studies focused on physical assault, there were a sufficient number that defined workplace violence more broadly. In other words, more reliable studies are required to provide a robust empirical assessment of the extent of assaults against public officers.

With that limitation, the research suggests that, at least in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom (UK) and Canada:

- rates of the incidence of assault may be lowest among firefighters, and highest in the health and welfare sectors;
- the most common type of assault against public officers does *not* involve weapons or result in serious injury;
- assaults in the workplace are more commonly *reported* by male staff than female staff, across a range of occupational groups.

Trends in the incidence of assaults against public officers are more difficult to assess, due to possible changes in reporting and the environment (in addition to methodological limitations). More recent research suggests that, at least for those in the justice sector, assaults against public officers may have declined. However, this may not be the case for those in the healthcare and welfare sector.

Although conclusions about the trends and extent of assaults against public officers are made tentatively, the impact of these assaults on both victims and organisation should not be overlooked. For victims, the research documents detrimental impacts such as: negative consequences for emotional and physical well-being; decreased connectedness to the organisation; lack of a desire to remain in the occupation; and reduced job performance, including increased errors. However, the extent of the organisational costs of these assaults – such as lost productivity and high staff turnover – has been largely understudied, especially outside the health sector and the United States. A 2011 Australian study of accepted workers' compensation claims made by police officers estimated

an average of 587 work hours per claim (ranging from claims for one hour to over 11,840 hours) were lost due to injuries caused by the broader category of occupational violence.

2.3 Reported incidents and accepted WorkCover claims

Section summary

- Agencies in the health sector recorded the highest number of assaults; however, very few of these assaults resulted in a claim for compensation. On the other hand, police officers, corrective services officers and youth detention staff had higher rates of compensation claims following an assault. These findings are supported by the evidence in the literature review that workers in care professions may view occupational violence as ‘part of their job’.
- When viewed as a rate of the workforce, police officers and prison officers are the most likely to receive compensation following an assault, followed distantly by teacher aides and paramedics.

As highlighted in the Griffith University literature review, the findings of which are summarised above, certain occupational groups are less likely to report assaults committed against them. Public officers working in care professions, including healthcare, education, and emergency response sectors, under-report assaults committed against them, as the professional orientation of these professions inhibits reporting. For example, some professionals may view occupational violence as ‘part of their job’.¹ The issue of under-reporting is expanded on in section 11.1.1 of this report.

The Council obtained data from a range of public sector agencies on the number of incidents reported internally from 2014–15 to 2018–19 that involved the assault of a public officer. It is important to note that the definition of ‘assault’ could be applied differently in each agency, and therefore the number of reported incidents might not be comparable across agencies. Further data were obtained from WorkCover Queensland on the number of accepted claims that involved the assault of a public officer.² These figures are displayed in Table 2-1 below.

A conversion rate was calculated by dividing the number of accepted WorkCover claims by the number of incidents reported by each agency. Employees in the health sector had the lowest conversion rate, with only 4.3 per cent of reported incidents resulting in an accepted WorkCover claim. The Queensland Ambulance Service had a conversion rate of 8.5 per cent – almost twice that of Queensland Health but comparatively low in relation to other agencies. Police officers had a higher conversion rate, with 26.8 per cent of reported incidents leading to an accepted WorkCover claim.

Similarly, corrective services officers also had a higher conversion rate, with 34.8 per cent of incidents resulting in an accepted claim.

Table 2-1: Number of reported incidents and accepted WorkCover claims for assaults of public officers, 2014–15 to 2018–19

Agency	Reported incidents	Accepted WorkCover claims	Conversion rate
Queensland Health	34,844	1,481	4.3%
Queensland Ambulance Service	1,656	141	8.5%
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	19	2	10.5%
Queensland Police Service – Police Officers	9,103	2,440	26.8%
Queensland Corrective Services – Prison staff* (2018–19 only)	333	116	34.8%
Youth Justice – Detention centre staff* (2018–19 only)	121	18	14.9%

Source: Incident data provided by individual agencies – unreported data, 2014–15 to 2018–19. Claims data provided by WorkCover Queensland – unreported data, 2014–15 to 2018–19.

Notes:

(1) Incident data from different agencies are sourced from different administrative systems and may not be directly comparable. Incident data from QCS and Youth Justice reflect the number of incidents recorded in prison and detention facilities involving a staff member. Data from the QPS reflect the number of assaults of on-duty police officers that were charged. Data from Queensland Health, QAS and QFES reflect the number of incidents involving the assault of a staff member that were reported internally.

(*) Due to Machinery-of-Government changes, only includes data from 2018–19.

The number of accepted WorkCover claims can provide an indication of which public sector agencies are affected by assaults. However, due to differences in reporting rates between different professions (discussed above), some occupational groups may under-report more than others. The extent of harm caused may also affect the number of

¹ Christine Bond et al, *Assaults on Public Officers: A Review of Research Evidence* (Griffith Criminology Institute for Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, March 2020) [3.2].

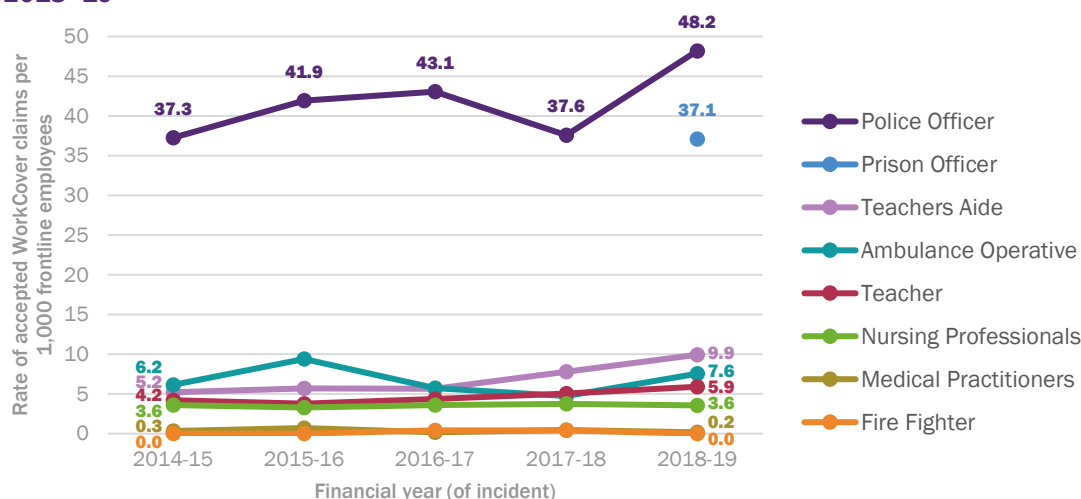
² See Appendix 3 for the methodology WorkCover used to extract the claims data.

claims accepted by WorkCover; that is, assaults that result in medical costs or time off work may be more likely to result in a WorkCover claim. Table A4-3 in Appendix 4 provides a breakdown of the number of accepted WorkCover claims by agency and occupation from 2014-15 to 2018-19. It is important to note that some occupational groups have many more employees than other occupational groups. Hence, data between agencies are not comparable. For comparable data, refer to Figure 2-1 below, which reports the number of accepted WorkCover claims reported as a rate of workers employed in those roles.

In 2018-19, the QPS, Department of Education, and Department of Health reported the highest number of accepted WorkCover claims resulting from an assault of a staff member (n=583, 581, 284, respectively, excluding guards and security officers). QCS and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women also reported a large number of accepted WorkCover claims (n=107 and n=123, respectively, excluding guards and security officers). Guards and security officers accounted for 45 claims, across a range of agencies. While the number of assaults in other agencies (such as the Queensland Ambulance Service) is relatively low, it is important to note that there are also fewer workers employed in these agencies – see Figure 2-1 for further context.

Figure 2-1 shows the rate of accepted WorkCover claims per 1,000 employees where the claim was the result of the assault of a public officer. Police officers had the highest rate, which has increased over the past five years, from 37.3 claims per 1,000 officers in 2014-15 to 48.2 claims per 1,000 officers in 2018-19. Prison officers (of both adult prison and juvenile detention centres) had the second-highest rate of claims, with 37.1 accepted WorkCover claims per 1,000 officers in 2018-19. Due to Machinery-of-Government changes, the Council was unable to obtain comparable numbers of prison officers for years prior to 2018-19 to allow for a comparison over time. The remaining occupational groups for which data were available were relatively low in comparison. There were 7.6 accepted WorkCover claims per 1,000 ambulance operatives in 2018-19. Teacher aides had a rate of 9.9 claims per 1,000 employees in 2018-19, which was higher than the rate of 5.9 for teachers.

Figure 2-1: Rate of accepted WorkCover claims per 1,000 employees for assault of public officers, 2014-15 to 2018-19



Source: Claims data provided by WorkCover – unreported data, 2014-15 to 2018-19. Rates calculated from the number of frontline workers as provided by the Queensland Public Service Commission – unreported data, 2014-15 to 2018-19.
 Note: Prison officers were not identified as a discrete group prior to 2018-19.

2.4 Sentenced cases involving acts intended to cause injury

Section summary

- Serious assault offences comprise 11.8% of all sentenced acts intended to cause injury.
- Other assaults of public officers comprise 16.0% of all sentenced acts intended to cause injury.

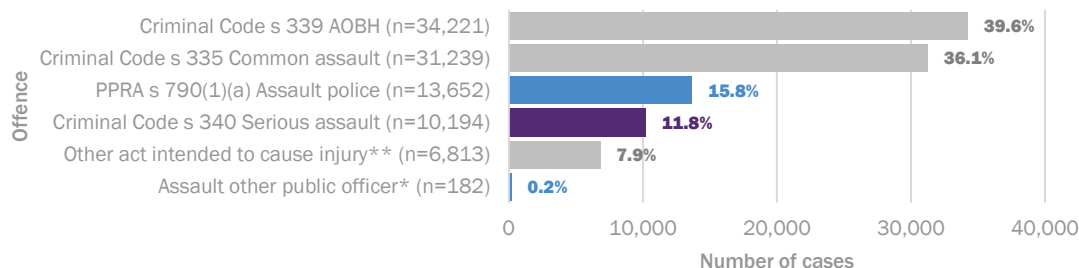
As discussed above, not all cases involving the assault of a public officer are reported. Even fewer cases proceed to a WorkCover claim, or result in criminal charges. The remainder of this chapter discusses those cases that have resulted in a conviction for an offence sentenced by a Queensland Court.

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) is used to classify offences into broad categories for statistical purposes. To ascertain the prevalence of serious assaults, Figure 2-2 shows a breakdown of all offences falling within the broad offence category of ‘acts intended to cause injury’. This category includes offences that cause non-fatal injury or harm to another person where there is no sexual or acquisitive element and includes offences such as common assault and assaults occasioning bodily harm (AOBH). As the ANZSOC is a national classification, its broad categories may not always account for the elements of offences as they exist in

individual jurisdictions. For this reason, it is important to note that, in the Queensland context, some offences that are classified under ‘acts intended to cause injury’ do not actually require an ‘intent’ to injure, and the classification might more accurately be thought of as ‘assaults that cause harm’.

Assaults against a public officer make up a substantial proportion of all acts intended to cause injury sentenced in Queensland Courts – see Figure 2-2. Assault of a police officer under section 790(1)(a) of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld) (PPRA) accounted for 15.8 per cent of all acts intended to cause injury. An additional 11.8 per cent of cases involved a serious assault. A further 0.2 per cent of cases involved the assault of a public officer under a different legislative provision.

Figure 2-2: Number of sentenced cases involving an ‘act intended to cause injury’



Data include higher and lower courts, adult and juvenile cases sentenced from 2009–10 to 2018–19.

Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

Notes:

- (1) Totals will add to more than 100%, as a case will be counted multiple times if it contains multiple offences.
- (2) For the purposes of this analysis, some offences were recoded from the offence classification of ‘resist or hinder government official’ to ‘acts intended to cause injury’. These included:

- the serious assault of a public officer (*Criminal Code* s 340(2AA));
- the assault or obstruction of a corrective services officer (*Corrective Services Act 2006* s 124(b));
- the assault or obstruction of a watch-house officer (*Police Power and Responsibilities Act 2000* s 655A); and
- resisting a public officer (*Criminal Code* s 199).

(*) ‘Assault other public officer’ includes assaults and obstructions of corrective services officers under s 124(b) of the CSA, watch-house officers under s 655A of the PPRA, and public officers under s 199 of the *Criminal Code*.

(**) Offences with fewer than 5,000 cases were grouped as ‘other act intended to cause injury’; these include offences such as GBH (n=2,133), unlawful stalking (n=1,549), wounding (n=1,397), and others.

2.5 Sentenced cases involving the assault of a public officer

Section summary

- There were 10,194 sentenced cases involving a serious assault from 2009–10 to 2018–19. In 7,932 of these cases, serious assault was the most serious offence sentenced.
- The most common type of serious assault involved assault of a police officer, comprising 65.4% of cases, although the number of these cases has decreased over the past five years.
- The lesser summary offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer was sentenced in 85,434 cases over the 10-year period, although the number of these cases has decreased considerably over this time.
- There were over 60 different offences identified throughout various pieces of legislation that involved the assault, obstruction, hindering or resisting of a public officer – these were sentenced in 1,553 cases.

2.5.1 Serious assault

From 2009–10 to 2018–19, there were 10,194 cases sentenced in Queensland's courts that involved a charge of serious assault – see Table 2-2. These cases involved a total of 13,565 offences of serious assault and were committed by 9,061 unique individuals. In 7,932 of these cases, serious assault was the most serious offence sentenced.

Table 2-2: Frequency of serious assaults sentenced in Queensland courts

Section	Offence Description	Cases	Offenders	Offences	MSO
340	Serious assault – nfd*	4	4	5	2
340(1)(a)	Serious assault – Intent to commit/resist arrest	294	292	366	169
340(1)(b)	Serious assault – Police officer	6,538	6,014	8,736	5,191
340(1)(c)	Serious assault – Performing duty at law	236	229	306	160
340(1)(d)	Serious assault – Performed duty at law	85	82	101	60
340(1)(f)	Serious assault – Conspiracy in trade	2	2	2	1
340(1)(g)	Serious assault – 60 years and over	1,702	1,664	1,823	1,329
340(1)(h)	Serious assault – Person with a disability	40	39	45	32
340(2)	Serious assault – Corrective services officer	292	246	422	213
340(2AA)	Serious assault – Public officer	1,337	1,259	1,759	775
TOTAL		10,194	9,061	13,565	7,932

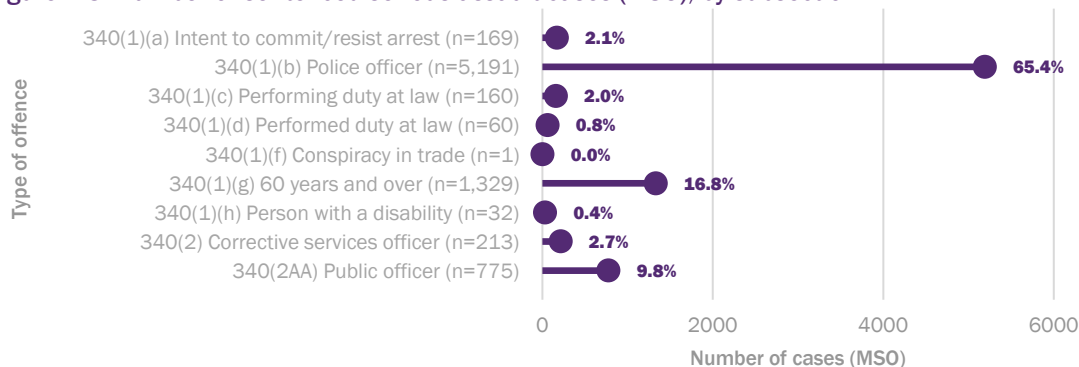
Data include higher and lower courts, adult and juvenile cases sentenced from 2009–10 to 2018–19.

Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

Note: (*) nfd = not further defined – these cases could not be classified into specific subsections.

Figure 2-3 shows the number of cases sentenced where serious assault was the most serious offence (MSO) sentenced. The serious assault of a police officer was, by far, the most common type of serious assault, accounting for 65.4 per cent of cases sentenced under section 340 (MSO). The second most frequently sentenced type of serious assault involved people aged 60 years and over (16.8%). Public officers were the third-largest category (9.8%). The remaining types of serious assault only account for small percentages of all serious assault cases, including cases involving a serious assault charge under section 340(1)(c) assault of a person performing a duty at law and section 340(1)(d) assault of a person who has performed a duty at law, as well as section 340(2) assault of a working corrective services officers at a corrective services facility.

Figure 2-3: Number of sentenced serious assault cases (MSO), by subsection



Data include: Higher and lower courts, adult and juvenile cases (MSO) sentenced between 2009–10 and 2018–19.

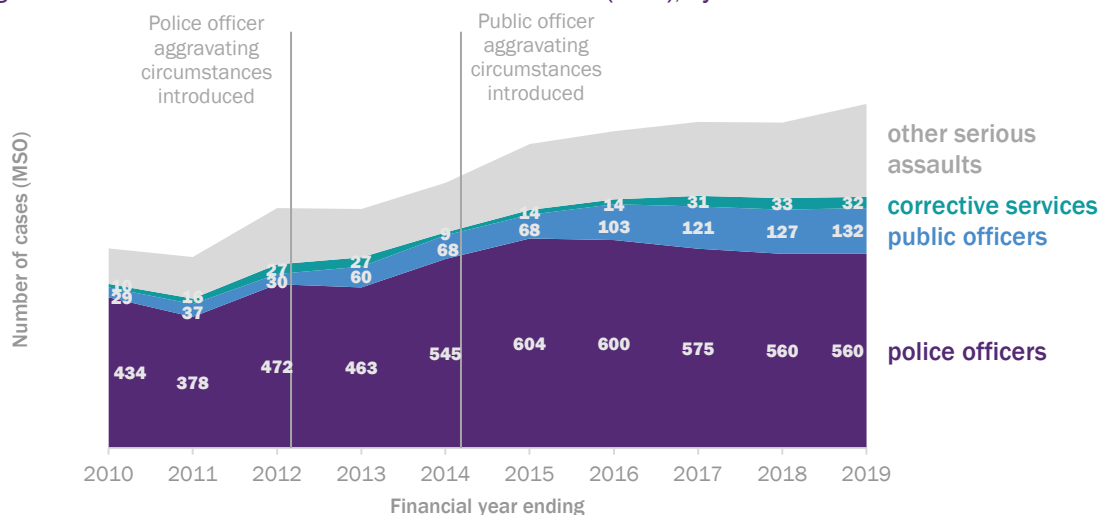
Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

Figure 2-4 provides a breakdown of the types of serious assault over time. For a detailed breakdown see Table A4-2 in Appendix 4.

The number of serious assaults of a police officer increased by 39.2 per cent from 2009–10 to 2014–15; however, since 2014–15, the number of serious assaults involving a police officer as the victim has declined by 7.3 per cent. The QPS Violent Confrontations Review, undertaken by the QPS following five fatal police shootings in 2013–14, observed a 15.2 per cent reduction of all reported assaults of on-duty police officers between 2012 and 2014. The review identified the increased use of ‘accoutrements (capsicum spray, taser and firearms) which are traditionally deployed from a greater distance between the subject and police officer’ as a possible contributing factor.³

The number of assaults of public officers more than quadrupled over the data period, from 29 cases (MSO) in 2009–10 to 132 in 2018–19. Over the same period, the number of employees in the public sector increased by 18.8 per cent.

Figure 2-4: Number of sentenced serious assault cases (MSO), by subsection over time

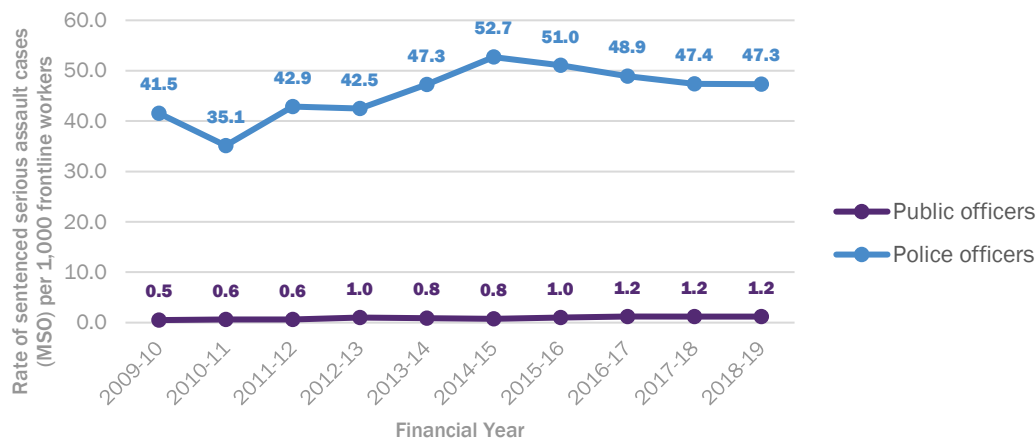


Data include higher and lower courts, adult and juvenile cases (MSO) sentenced between 2009–10 and 2018–19. Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

³ Queensland Police Service, Violent Confrontations Review Team, Operational Capability Command, *QPS Violent Confrontations Review* (undated) <<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-12/QPS%20Violent%20Confrontations%20Review.pdf>> 23.

The decrease in serious assaults against police officers in recent years is even more notable considering the number of police officers in Queensland has increased by 3.2 per cent over the same period (2014–15 to 2018–19). Figure 2-5 shows the rate of sentenced serious assault cases per 1,000 frontline employees. In 2014–15, there were 52.7 sentenced cases involving the assault of a police officer (MSO) per 1,000 officers, reducing to 47.3 in 2018–19. Over the same period, the rate of assaults of public officers increased minimally, from 0.8 sentenced cases per 1,000 frontline workers in 2014–15 to 1.2 in 2018–19.

Figure 2-5: Rate of sentenced serious assault cases (MSO) per 1,000 frontline employees over time



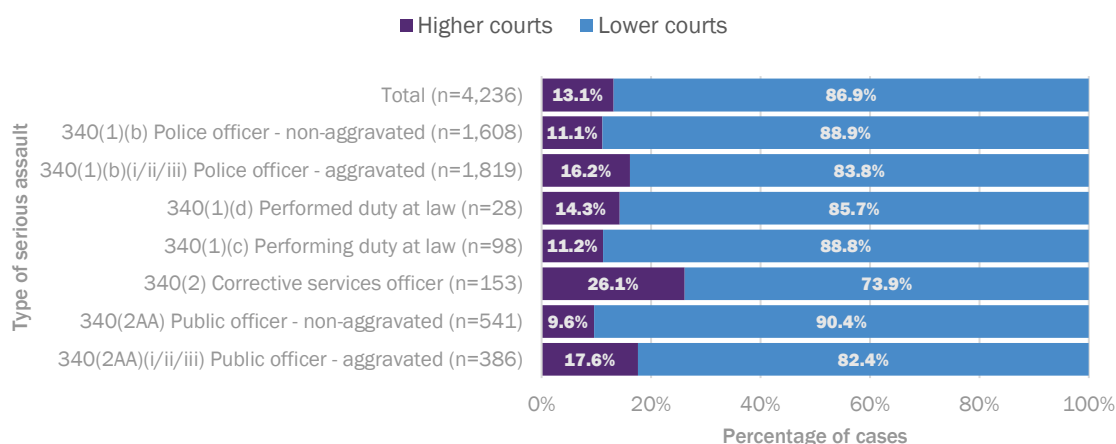
Data include higher and lower courts, adult and juvenile cases (MSO) sentenced between 2009–10 and 2018–19.

Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019. Rates calculated from the number of frontline workers provided by the QPSC – unpublished data, 2014–15 to 2018–19.

Note: ‘Public officers’ includes serious assaults of corrective services officers under s 340(2), public officers under s 340(2AA), and those performing or who performed a duty imposed at law under s 340(1)(c) and s 340(1)(d).

While most cases involving a serious assault are heard in the Magistrates Courts, some types of serious assault are more likely to be dealt with in the higher courts. Serious assaults of working corrective services officers by prisoners who are either in prison or on parole are the most likely type of serious assault to be sentenced in the higher courts (26.1%). The non-aggravated assault of a public officer is the least likely type of serious assault to be dealt with by the higher courts, with 90.4 per cent of these cases sentenced in the Magistrates Courts – see Figure 2-6.

Figure 2-6: Proportion of serious assault of a public officer cases sentenced in the higher and lower courts



Data include adult and juvenile cases sentenced between 2014–15 and 2018–19 where the offence was committed on or after 5 September 2014.

Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

2.5.2 Summary offences

In contrast to serious assaults under the *Criminal Code*, the offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer under section 790 of the PPRA is a less serious offence that can only be dealt with by a Magistrates Court, unless transmitted to a higher court to be dealt with alongside more serious charges.

Compared with the number of cases sentenced for serious assault of a police officer under section 340(1)(b) of the *Criminal Code* (Qld) (n=6,538), a much larger number of cases (n=85,434) involved an offender being sentenced for assault or obstruction of a police officer under section 790 of the PPRA. In 24,488 of those cases, the assault

or obstruction of a police officer was the most serious offence sentenced, indicating that this offence is often charged alongside more serious offences.

Other summary offences involving the assault or obstruction of a public officer were sentenced far less often. Resisting public officers under section 199 of the *Criminal Code* was sentenced in 25 cases over the 10-year period, 147 cases were sentenced involving assault or obstruction of a corrective services officer (CSA s 124(b)), and 10 cases were sentenced involving assault or obstruction of a watch-house officer (PPRA s 655A).

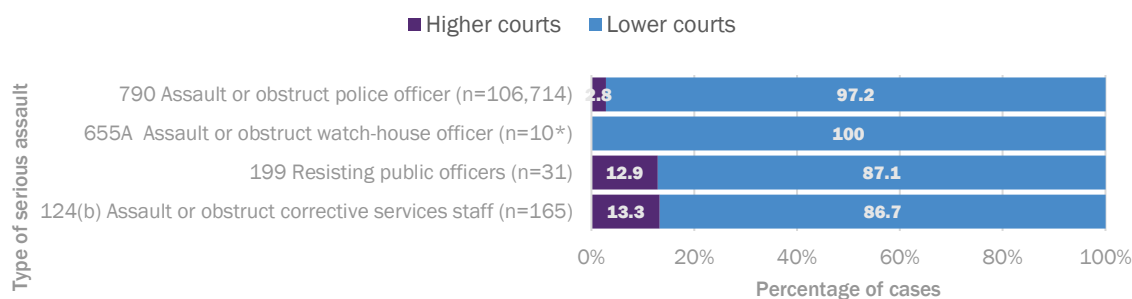
Table 2-3: Frequency of summary offences sentenced in Queensland courts

Section	Offence Description	Cases	Offenders	Offences	MSO
124(b)	Assault or obstruct corrective services staff	147	138	165	81
199	Resisting public officers	25	25	31	7
655A	Assault or obstruct watch-house officer	10	10	10	6
790	Assault or obstruct police officer	85,434	61,924	106,714	24,488

Data include higher and lower courts, adult and juvenile cases sentenced from 2009–10 to 2018–19. Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

Due to the less serious nature of these summary offences, they were predominantly sentenced in the lower courts – approximately 87 per cent or more of these offences were sentenced in the lower courts. Those sentenced in the higher courts are likely to be dealt with alongside more serious charges.

Figure 2-7: Proportion of summary offences cases sentenced in the higher and lower courts



Data include adult and juvenile cases, offences sentenced from 2009–10 to 2018–19.

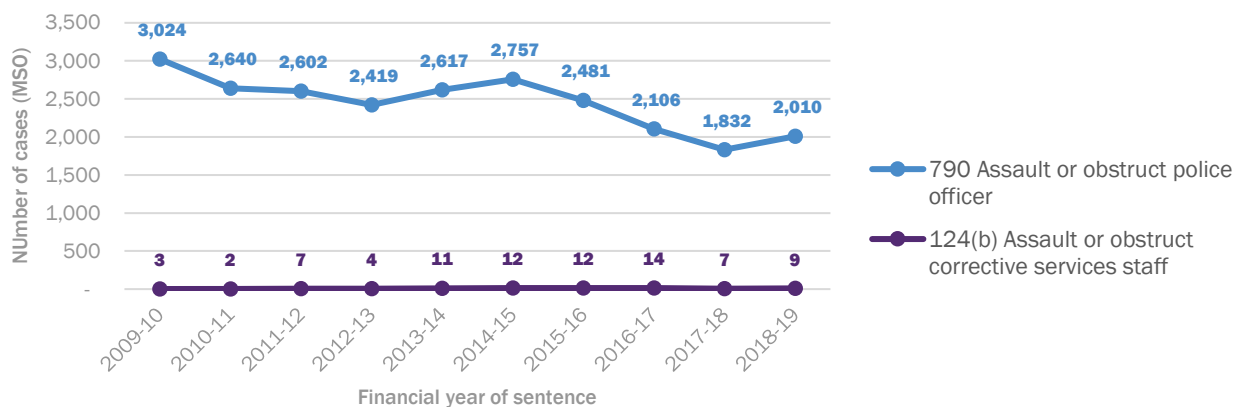
Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

Note: (*) Small sample size

The number of assault or obstruction of police officers (MSO) sentenced under section 790 of the PPRA has decreased over the past 10 years, from 3,024 cases in 2009–10 down to 2,010 cases in 2018–19. This decrease might be partly attributable to an increased use of penalty infringement notices (PINs). Police officers can issue PINs for obstruction offences (although not for assault offences), which means the person does not have to go to court if they pay the infringement amount. Officers use their discretion in deciding whether to issue a PIN or to instead choose the court process. Other non-court actions include cautioning, conferencing and referral to support services.

Far fewer cases were sentenced for assault or obstruction of corrective services staff (CSA s 124(b)); however, proportionally, there was a slight increase in cases from 2009–10 to 2018–19, peaking at 14 cases in 2016–17.

Figure 2-8: Number of sentenced summary offence cases (MSO), over time



Data include higher and lower courts, adult and juvenile cases (MSO) sentenced from 2009–10 to 2018–19. Source: QGSO, Queensland Treasury – Courts Database, extracted November 2019.

2.5.3 Other offences

Table 2-4 below lists all the offences that have been sentenced in Queensland Courts from 2009–10 to 2018–19 that involved the assault, obstruction, resistance or hinderance of a particular category of person. The list was compiled by searching for all offences that contained the phrases ‘resist’, ‘obstruct’, or ‘hinder’. Additionally, any offences that were categorised under certain ANZSOC categories were included. These categories included:

- 1541 Resist or hinder government official (excluding police officer, justice official or government security officer)
- 1562 Resist or hinder police officer or justice official

The resulting list of offences was manually reviewed to verify that the included offences were relevant.

Offences that have been examined in detail elsewhere in this report were not included in this analysis. These offences were:

- s 340 *Criminal Code* – Serious assault;
- s 790 PPRA – Assault or obstruction of a police officer;
- s 124(b) CSA – Assault or obstruction of a corrective services officer; and
- s 199 *Criminal Code* – Resisting public officers.

The type of penalty received at sentencing is included in the table. Due to the small number of cases for most of these offences, it was not feasible to provide more detailed breakdowns – as a result, the data include penalties from all courts, and for both adults and young people. The penalties are grouped into broad categories:

- Custodial penalties – including imprisonment, suspended sentences, and intensive correction orders (for young offenders, this included detention, conditional release orders and boot camp orders);
- Community-based penalties – including probation and community service;
- Monetary penalties – including fines, compensation and restitution payments; and
- Other – including good behaviour bonds, and cases that were convicted but not further punished (for young offenders, this included reprimands and court-ordered conferences).

Table 2-4: Offences involving the assault, obstruction, resist or hinderance of a specific category of person

Act	Section	Offence description	Cases	MSO	Sentencing outcomes			
					Custodial penalties	Community-based penalties	Monetary	Other
ANZSOC category: 02 Acts Intended to cause injury								
<i>Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994</i>	190(1)	Obstruction of master or crew	10	6	2	1	3	4
<i>Police Powers & Responsibilities Act 2000</i>	655A(1)(a)	Assault watch-house officer	5	3	2	2	1	0
<i>Criminal Code (Qld)</i>	317(1)(c)	Acts intended to cause GBH – resisting arrest	4	3	4	0	0	0
<i>Justices Act 1886</i>	40(1)(D)	Unlawfully assault or wilfully obstruct a person in attendance at a court or an examination	2	0	2	0	0	0
<i>Criminal Code (Qld)</i>	317(1)(d)	Acts intended to cause GBH – resisting public officer	1	1	1	0	0	0
ANZSOC category: 13 Public order								
<i>Liquor Act 1992</i>	165A(4)	Resisting authorised person after being refused entry to premises	491	223	1	6	385	99
<i>Liquor Act 1992</i>	166	Obstruction generally	274	129	0	8	216	52
<i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i>	805(1)(B)	Obstruction of petroleum authority holder – carrying out an authorised activity for the petroleum authority on the land	2	2	0	0	2	0
<i>Criminal Code (Qld)</i>	206	Obstruct minister of religion while officiating by threats or force	1	0	1	0	0	0
ANZSOC Category: 1541 Resist or hinder government official (excluding police officer, justice official or government security officer)								
<i>Ambulance Services Act 1991</i>	46	Obstruct/hinder ambulance officer	198	73	7	21	114	58
<i>Criminal Code (Cth)</i>	149	[Cth] Obstruction of Commonwealth public officials	73	23	2	8	37	31
<i>Liquor Act 1992</i>	173ED(3)	Resisting an authorised person who is removing a prohibited person from premises	70	10	0	2	60	10
<i>Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994</i>	135(1)	Obstruction of an authorised officer in the exercise of a power	62	1	1	3	33	25
<i>Fisheries Act 1957</i>	182	Obstruct an inspector	43	18	0	0	42	1
<i>Liquor Act 1992</i>	185(1)	Obstruct investigator or person assisting investigator	24	10	0	1	16	7
<i>State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983</i>	29	Resist security officer	21	4	1	5	10	5
<i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i>	150C(1)	Obstruction of persons performing functions	20	9	3	3	17	2
<i>Hospital & Health Boards Act 2011</i>	187(1)	Obstructing an authorised person or security officer	14	1	1	2	7	4
<i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995</i>	54(2)	Obstruction of authorised officer	14	6	0	0	14	0
<i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995</i>	80(5A)	Obstructing healthcare professional taking blood specimen	4	0	0	2	1	1
<i>Animal Care & Protection Act 2001</i>	206(1)	Obstruct authorised officer or inspector without reasonable excuse	4	1	0	0	3	1
<i>Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994</i>	182(1)	Obstruction of shipping inspectors	3	1	0	0	2	1
<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>	190	Offence to assault, threaten or intimidate inspector	2	1	0	0	0	2
<i>Criminal Code (Qld)</i>	190-191	[Repealed] obstructing/resisting possession of post and telegraph officers etc.	2	1	0	0	1	1
<i>Recreation Areas Management Act 2006</i>	194(1)	Obstructing an authorised officer	2	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Food Act 2006</i>	214(1)	Obstructing an authorised person in exercise of power	2	0	0	0	2	0
<i>[Repealed] Consumer Credit Act 1994 (Qld)</i>	47	[Repealed] Obstructing inspector	2	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Australian Securities & Investment Commission Act (Cth)</i>	66(1)(A)	Engage in conduct that obstructs or hinders ASIC in the performance of its functions	2	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Animal Management (Cats And Dogs) Act 2008</i>	137(1)	Obstruction of authorised person	2	2	0	0	2	0
<i>Fair Trading Act 1989</i>	91(1)	Obstruction	1	1	0	0	1	0

Act	Section	Offence description	Cases	MSO	Sentencing outcomes			
					Custodial penalties	Community-based penalties	Monetary	Other
[Repealed] <i>Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000</i>	561	[Repealed] Threatening or obstructing inspectors	1	1	0	0	1	0
[Repealed] <i>Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995</i>	173	[Repealed] Unlawfully obstructing inspector	1	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Mental Health Act 2016</i>	625(1)	Obstruct an official exercising a power, or someone helping an official exercising a power	1	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	155	Obstruct conservation officer	2	1	0	0	2	0
<i>Forestry Act 1959</i>	86(1)(A)	Abuse forest officer performing duties	1	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012</i>	584(1)	Obstruct an authorised officer, or someone helping an authorised officer, exercising a power under the heavy vehicle national law (Queensland)	1	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Sunshine Coast Regional Council - Local Law No 1 (Admin) 2011</i>	23	Threatening etc. an authorised person	1	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Work Health And Safety Act 2011</i>	188	Offence to hinder or obstruct inspector	1	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994</i>	85	Obstruction of a harbour master	1	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Brisbane City Council - Local Law 04 - Legal Proceedings</i>	PART 12 S2(C)(I)	Use threatening, insulting or abusive language to officer discharging/attempting to discharge duties	2	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>	107(1)	[Repealed] Obstructing an authorised person for a railway	1	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995</i>	73(1)(B)	Obstruction of person authorised under section 71	1	0	0	0	1	0
ANZSOC Category: 15621 Resist arrest, incite, hinder, obstruct police								
<i>Kowanyama Aboriginal Council By-Laws 1997</i>	30	Obstruct, hinder or resist police	29	14	0	0	29	0
<i>Police Powers & Responsibilities Act 2000</i>	575(1)	[Repealed] Assault or obstruct authorised person exercising a power (special event)	23	6	1	2	14	6
<i>Child Protection Act 1999</i>	160(1)	Obstruction of authorised officer etc.	19	6	0	2	10	7
[Repealed] <i>Police Act 1937</i>	59	[Repealed] Assault/obstruct/hinder police/resist arrest	42	3	2	0	22	18
<i>Police Service Administration Act 1990</i>	10.20A(2)	[Repealed] Assault/obstruct police officer in performance of duty	25	2	2	0	16	7
<i>Police Powers & Responsibilities Act 2000</i>	655A(1)(b)	Obstruct watch-house officer	5	3	0	0	4	1
<i>Woorabinda Aboriginal Council By-Laws</i>	3.7	Assault/obstruct police	3	1	0	0	2	1
ANZSOC Category: 15623 Resist or hinder other justice official								
<i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i>	127(1)	Obstructing staff member	26	11	16	0	5	6
<i>Criminal Code (Qld)</i>	148	Obstructing officers of courts of justice	3	2	0	1	1	1
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984</i>	64	Obstruction, intimidation and assault	1	0	1	0	0	0