



Department of Justice and Attorney-General  
Office of the Director-General

In reply please quote: 585208/1; 5104503

Your reference: 5033478; 592302/1

29 JAN 2020

1 William Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 149 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone 13 74 68 (13 QGOV)  
[www.justice.qld.gov.au](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au)

ABN 13 846 673 994

Mr John Robertson  
Chair  
Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council  
GPO Box 2360  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Robertson

Thank you for letter dated 6 December 2019 inviting the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) to provide feedback regarding the Terms of Reference referred to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council (QSAC) concerning penalties for assaults on police and other frontline emergency service officers and other public officers. I apologise for the delay in responding.


DJAG is committed to creating supportive workplaces that demonstrate a strong commitment to our people's health, safety and wellbeing; and is supportive of the Terms of Reference.

DJAG's nominated representative, Ms Fiona Finn, Acting Manager Health Safety and Wellbeing, has provided available incident data documenting assaults against staff from 2009 to 2019, and workers' compensation data from the 2014-15 financial year to December 2019 to the nominated contact officer of QSAC.

However, in considering data-based insights as part of this review, we note that factors such as stigma, effectiveness of some reporting systems, management complacency and a perception that 'it's just part of the job' can lead to under reporting across many relevant areas. Therefore, it is likely that the problem of workplace violence and aggression is likely to be more extensive than the data alone might suggest. Ms Finn will continue to work with QSAC regarding the data provided.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



David Mackie  
Director-General