



Office of the  
**Director-General**

Department of  
**Youth Justice**

Our reference: 08423-2019

**07 FEB 2020**

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

**By email:** [submissions@sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:submissions@sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Robertson

Thank you for your letter dated 6 December 2019 regarding the Terms of Reference that were referred to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council concerning penalties for assaults on police and other frontline emergency service workers, corrective service officers and other public officers.

The Department of Youth Justice (DYJ) supports the recognition of concerns regarding assaults on these officers and the need to ensure safe working environments. The department welcomes the opportunity to assist the Council in its inquiry.

Youth Detention Centre staff, who are public officers under the Terms of Reference, work with some of the most challenging and traumatised young people in our community. The department ensures that staff are aware of their rights and of the local procedures that are in place to support them through complaints processes. Staff are also aware that they will be supported in making complaints to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) when appropriate.

DYJ encourages the Council to consider the Terms of Reference in regards to the potential implications for children and staff within the unique environment of youth detention and other places administered under the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.

In relation to the provision of data to assist the Council's review, the DYJ is able to supplement publicly available Report on Government Services (ROGS) data relating to staff assaults and serious assaults. Information captured by ROGS reporting contains data for 2011/12 to the 2017/18 financial year ending 30 June 2018. ROGS reporting data can be supplemented by information retrieved from the Detention Centre Operational Information System (DCOIS). DCOIS records specific incident types, including staff assaults. Information up to 31 December 2019 could be provided for the purpose of the review. It is pertinent to consider that ROGS and DCOIS data relating to staff assaults does not necessarily indicate a complaint was made to QPS, but that the intensity of the assault would be sufficient to do so.

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For the purposes of the Council's review, DYJ will seek legal advice regarding whether or not identified information can be provided.

In order to facilitate further contact with the DYJ, the Council was advised on 20 December 2019 that Mr Phil Hall, Manager, Policy and Legislation, would be the key point of contact for the purposes of the inquiry. Mr Hall can be contacted by email at

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Thank you again for the opportunity to provide preliminary feedback to the Council, I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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**Robert Gee**  
**Director-General**