

PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY — TRANSIT GUARDS

372. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) How many persons are employed as transit guards?
- (2) How many transit guard positions are not filled at this time?
- (3) How many private security personnel are utilised to supplement the transit guards?
- (4) Are private security personnel exercising the powers of transit guards, including —
 - (a) demanding names and addresses of passengers;
 - (b) detaining offenders; and
 - (c) accessing the police database to record, verify or obtain details of passengers?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, I thank Hon Simon O'Brien for some notice of this question, to which the minister has provided the following answer.

- (1) Currently, 188 persons are employed by the Public Transport Authority as transit officers, of which 12 are supervisors and four are shift commanders. Another 27 persons are in training. This is 165 more Public Transport Authority security personnel with arrest powers than the coalition government employed and 69 more than they engaged in all, including their private contractors. The Public Transport Authority has advised that the comparative numbers at the end of the former government's period in office—February 2001—were as follows. This part of the answer comprises a table. I seek leave to table the tabular part of the response, and to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 3909.]

The following material was incorporated —

Employer	Numbers CLAIMED	Numbers ACTUAL
WAGR Special Constables	23	23
Chubb Special Constables	104	96
Chubb Revenue Protection	44	30
Chubb Station Security	20	20
WAGR Customer Service	30	30

Hon SALLY TALBOT: The answer continues —

- (2) Despite a very concerted recruiting campaign, which included extensive press and radio advertising, 106 positions are not filled at this time. Recruits are required to reach physical fitness standards and pass appropriate psychometric testing to ensure their suitability for the role. The number of positions not filled will reduce to 79 when the most recently recruited officers complete their training.
- (3) Currently, there are 102 full-time private security personnel in the system.
- (4)
 - (a) Yes, for the purpose of issuing infringement notices for fare evasion only.
 - (b) Private security personnel have no power under the Public Transport Authority Act 2003 to detain offenders.
 - (c) Private security personnel do not have access to the police database.