

Written Reply

7. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

Regarding the Department's statutory oversight role over policing and its provincial programmes to combat gender-based violence (GBV):

- (1) What (a) specific support programmes, (b) civil society partnerships or (c) localised interventions are currently coordinated by her Department to strengthen the investigation of GBV;
- (2) (a) which specific police stations in the province have been identified where the volume of GBV reporting is disproportionately high but investigative outcomes and conviction rates remain poor and (b) what interventions have been recommended to the SAPS management for these stations;
- (3) what specific (a) oversight steps, (b) station audits or (c) monitoring interventions has her Department undertaken during the past 12 months to evaluate the performance of the SAPS in investigating GBV-related offences;
- (4) (a) what trends has her Department identified through its monitoring frameworks regarding the shifting prevalence and geographic concentration of GBV in the province and (b) which specific communities have been flagged as requiring urgent and targeted structural intervention;
- (5) what formal recommendations has she submitted to the national Minister of Police and to the SAPS National Commissioner to improve structurally the (a) resourcing and (b) effectiveness of GBV investigations in the province?

THE MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY TO REPLY:

7. (1)(a) The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety currently does not have specific standalone programmes dedicated to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). However, it supports existing GBV initiatives within the Overberg District through its District and Local Community Safety Forums, utilising portions of the Whole of Society Approach (WOSA) funding allocated to GBV programmes implemented in the district.

Furthermore, the Department initiated four GBV Ambassador programmes, which were subsequently transferred to the Department of Social Development (DSD) following the completion of the recruitment process. Ambassadors were recruited from accredited Neighbourhood Watch volunteers in Grabouw, Zwelihle, Bredasdorp, and Swellendam. All four programmes remain active and continue to function effectively.

- (b) The Department works in partnership with civil society organisations i.e. Local Community Police Forums, Neighbourhood Watch structures and local NGOs in the above-mentioned four areas to support and strengthen the response to GBV at a local level. These partnerships are facilitated through the District and Local Community Safety Forums, which bring together government departments, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and other stakeholders.

Through these collaborative structures, the Department supports coordinated interventions, information sharing, and community-based initiatives aimed at improving prevention, reporting, and support services for victims of GBV. Civil society partners play a critical role in awareness-raising, community mobilisation, and the provision of support services within communities.

- (c) The Department coordinates localised interventions aimed at strengthening the investigation of GBV through its District and Local Community Safety Forums. These forums facilitate interdepartmental and multi-sectoral collaboration between key stakeholders, including the South African Police Service, the National Prosecuting Authority, the Department of Social Development, and relevant civil society organisations.

Through these structures, the Department supports improved coordination of case management, information sharing, and targeted responses to GBV incidents at a local level. In addition, the Department utilises Whole of Society Approach (WOSA) funding to support community-based initiatives that enhance reporting mechanisms, strengthen referral pathways, and promote community involvement in addressing GBV.

- (2) (a) The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety monitors the level of compliance of the South African Police Service (SAPS) implementation of the Domestic Violence Amendment Act (Act 14/2021) as well as the

corresponding SAPS National Instruction i.e. Instruction 7/1999 and Consolidation notice 6/2023).

The province has 30 top police stations in terms on domestic violence crime. Of these police stations, Mitchell's Plain, Delft, Mfuleni, Worcester, Kleinvlei and Paarl East record the highest number of incidents and criminal cases. Table 1 shows the proportion of domestic violence incidents in the 30 top police stations for 2025/26 financial year. SAPS provided the Department with proportional percentage of domestic violence cases registered at these stations. These stations account for 59,3% of all the domestic violence cases registered in the province.

In line with mandate of the Department for the 12- month period of July 2025 to June 2026, 34 police stations were monitored on their compliance with domestic violence legislation. Of these 34 police stations, five (5) were part of the top 30 domestic violence stations (**Annexure A**). These five stations are Thembaletu, Mitchells Plain, Beaufort West, Manenberg and Mfuleni. Table 2 provides additional and specific case information for these stations. It should be noted that the conviction rate stated in this table is based on data collected, analysed for the 3-months prior the actual assessment. It is thus, not representative of the overall conviction rate of these stations for the 12 months period.

- (b) Upon conducting the assessment, the Department recommended the following interventions to the management of police station to improve service delivery.
- Affected police station management must strengthen their investigation capacity and engage the prosecutors of their courts to determine factors that contribute to low conviction rates and withdrawal of domestic violence cases.
 - Station commanders should implement a system to track progress regarding arrest rates in domestic violence cases registered, and track receiving and serving of protection orders.
 - Station commanders must ensure that regular first level inspections are done on all documentation (domestic violence forms and registers) to ensure accuracy and completeness.

- The Visible Police component at each police station should take collective responsibility to serve protection orders. Such approach will ensure that protection orders are served within 48 hours.
- (3) (a) Specific oversight steps taken to evaluate the performance of the SAPS in investigating GBV-related offences include ensuring that the Court Watching Brief unit focuses on domestic violence and sexual offences cases to determine reasons that result in these cases to be either withdrawn or struck off the court roll. This was in addition to the continuous monitoring of SAPS compliance with the implementation of Domestic Violence Act. The results thereof and recommendations are reported to the office of the SAPS Provincial Commissioner.
- (b) In terms of station audits, 34 police stations were monitored on Domestic Violence Act compliance as per the monitoring tool prescribed by the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS). Four quarterly consolidated reports were compiled on the results of the monitoring. Furthermore, the Court Watching Brief process continued to focus on domestic violence cases to determine SAPS systematic inefficiencies in their investigation process.
- (4) (a) Overall, the contents of table 1 on the top 30 domestic violence criminal case stations for 2025/26 shows that reporting of domestic violence is shifting to rural areas. In previous years, Worcester police station would occupy the lower stratum of the top stations i.e. between position 20 to 30 of the top domestic violence police stations. Recently, the situation deteriorated such that Worcester is now in position 4 in the 2025/26 financial year top stations.

Moreover, it is concerning that the Garden Route police stations namely Knysna, Oudtshoorn and Thembalethu are occupying positions 11, 13 and 23 respectively. For the West Coast district, Vredenburg police is in position 25, and for the Central Karoo district, Beaufort West police station is in position 26 on the list. Lastly, the situation in Robertson worsened to the level where the domestic violence registered for this station is now in the list, while the station previously would not be in the list. The increase in the number of domestic violence cases has dual interpretation. It could mean an increase domestic violence or an increase in the reporting of these cases.

- (b) It is recommended that the specific communities outlined in Table 1 be flagged as requiring urgent and targeted structural intervention: it is recommended that outside the Cape Town Metro and neighbouring Winelands districts stations as per the list (see table 1), the communities of the following areas to be flagged for targeted intervention: Worcester, Knysna, Oudtshoorn, Thembalethu, Beaufort West and Vredenburg.
- (5) (a) The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety uses the annual Policing Needs and Priorities (PNPs) as a strategic vehicle to report policing need and priorities in the province and police oversight findings to the Minister of Police. In this context, general human and vehicle resource shortfall will form part of the PNPs.
- (b) Thus far, the Department is yet to submit formal recommendations to the Minister of Police specifically on the effectiveness of GBV investigations in the province. The Court Watching Brief findings and recommendations are however forwarded to the office of the Provincial commissioner.

Table 1: The top 30 Domestic Violence Police Stations for 2025/26 financial year

Ranking	Name of police station	Proportional percentage of DV cases registered for 2025/26 financial year
1	Mitchells Plain	4,8%
2	Delft	4,3%
3	Mfuleni	4%
4	Worcester	3,1%
5	Kleinvelei	2,7%
6	Paarl East	2,5%
7	Kraaifontein	2,5%
8	Atlantis	2,4%
9	Bishop Lavis	2,2%
10	Nyanga	2,2%
11	Knysna	2,1%
12	Elsies River	2,1%
13	Oudtshoorn	2%
14	Manenberg	2%
15	Khayelitsha	1,9%
16	Gugulethu	1,8%
17	Harare	1,6%
18	Lentegeur	1,6%
19	Lingeletu-West	1,4%

Ranking	Name of police station	Proportional percentage of DV cases registered for 2025/26 financial year
20	Wellington	1,3%
21	Macassar	1,2%
22	Grassy Park	1,2%
23	Thembalethu	1,1%
24	Makhaza	1,1%
25	Vredenburg	1,1%
26	Beaufort West	1,1%
27	Kuilsrivier	1%
28	Ravensmead	1%
29	Langa	1%
30	Robertson	1%
Total of 30 stations	The list of top 30 stations includes 8 stations from outside the COCT and Winelands District area. These 8 stations are indicated in bold	These 30 top police stations accounts 59,3% of all 2025/26 domestic violence cases in the province.

Table 2: Stations in top 30 Domestic Violence stations monitored by POCS, July 2025 –June 2026

Police Station Name	Number of DV criminal cases for 3 months reporting period	Number of convictions	Conviction rates
Thembalethu	122	16	13%
Mitchells Plain	560	1	0%
Beaufort West	140	6	4%
Manenberg	240	16	7%
Mfuleni	420	0	0%
TOTAL	1 482	39	24%

Annexure A: Stations monitored by POCS on DV compliance: Qrt 2,3 and 4 of 2025/26 and Qrt 1 of 2026/27

No.	Police Station Name	Period
1	1 KwaNonqaba	Qrt 2 of 2025/26
2	2 Thembalethu¹	Qrt 2 of 2025/26
3	3 Mitchells Plain	Qrt 2 of 2025/26
4	4 Laingsburg	Qrt 2 of 2025/26

¹ The police stations marked bold form part of the top 30 police station in the province in terms of domestic violence. These 5 police stations were part of the 34 police stations assessed over the 12 months period.

5	5 Beaufort West	Qrt 2 of 2025/26
6	6 Fish hoek	Qrt 2 of 2025/26
7	1 Bredasdorp	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
8	2 Napier	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
9	3 Parow	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
10	4 Belhar	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
11	5 Hermanus	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
12	6 Kleinmond	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
13	7 Tulbagh	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
14	8 Saron	Qrt 3 of 2025/26
15	1 Genadendal	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
16	2 Grabouw	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
17	3 Table Bay Harbor	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
18	4 Manenberg	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
19	5 St. Helena Bay	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
20	6 Hopefield	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
21	7 Ceres	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
22	8 Prince Alfred Hamlet	Qrt 4 of 2025/26
23	1 Gordons Bay	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
24	2 Mbekweni	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
25	3 Kirstenhof	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
26	4 Brackenfell	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
27	5 Mfuleni	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
28	6 Heidelberg	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
29	7 George	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
30	8 Strandfontein	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
31	9 Riversdale	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
32	10 Still Bay	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
33	11 Camps Bay	Qrt 1 of 2026/27
34	12 Rondebosch	Qrt 1 of 2026/27