

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number: CV19-347**

**Subject: Illicit Drugs Seized**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How many tonnes of illicit drugs or precursors have been seized by the AFP:

- a. In August 2020?
- b. Financial year to date to August 2020?
- c. How does this compare to August 2019?
- d. Have there been any changes to illicit drugs or precursors seizures during COVID-19? Please outline any impacts to illicit drugs or precursors seizure numbers that could be explained by COVID-19?

**Answer:**

- a. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) seized 3.4 tonnes of illicit drugs and precursors in the month of August 2020.
- b. The AFP has seized 8.3 tonnes of illicit drugs and precursors in 2020-21 as at 31 August 2020.
- c. The AFP seized 2.9 tonnes of illicit drugs and precursors in August 2019.
- d. There have been no noticeable changes in seizures. Seizure quantities can vary significantly from month to month; therefore a more reliable analysis would be to compare the median seizure quantity per month. From 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020 the AFP seized 1.6 tonnes per month; from 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020 the AFP seized 2.2 tonnes per month.

Given that seizures do significantly change from month to month, it is premature to assume that increases are linked to COVID-19.

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**QoN Number: CV19-348**

**Subject: Cases finalised involving the AFP**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

During August 2020, how many cases involving the AFP were finalised? Have there been any changes in how many cases involving the AFP were finalised during COVID-19? Please outline any impacts to case finalisation numbers that could be explained by COVID-19?

- a. What was the conviction rate?
- b. Please provide the number of cases and conviction rate by crime category?
- c. How does this compare to August 2019? Please provide both the number of cases finalised in 2020 and the conviction rate.

**Answer:**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) finalised 117 cases in August 2020. The quantity of finalised has not changed greatly in this time (average 103 cases per month before COVID-19; average 104 cases per month since COVID-19).

- a. In the month of August 2020, the AFP's conviction rate was 100%. This is based on the below numbers of cases finalised after reaching court. Note that this differs from the above number of cases finalised. The below table excludes cases where the AFP assisted another agency in their investigation, or where the AFP resolved its investigation via disruption or seizing criminal assets rather than pursuing a conviction.
- b.

Crime Type	Cases	Conviction Rate
Drugs	9	100%
Child exploitation	8	100%
Financial crime	2	100%
Victim-based crime	1	100%
Organised crime (other than drugs)	1	100%
Other	1	100%

- c. In the month of August 2019, the AFP's conviction rate was 100% based on 11 cases finalised after reaching court.

Crime Type	Cases	Conviction Rate
Drugs	8	100%
Child exploitation	1	100%
Financial crime	2	100%

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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**QoN Number:** CV19-349

**Subject: Conviction rates during COVID-19**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

The AFP Annual Report indicates that the AFP measures the success of prosecutions through the conviction rate. Have there been any changes in conviction rates during COVID-19?

Please outline any impacts to conviction rates that could be explained by COVID-19?

- a. As of 31 August, how many cases involving the AFP were before the Courts?
  - i. Please provide a breakdown by crime category.
- b. How does this compare to 31 August 2019?

**Answer:**

Conviction rate has been very consistent since being introduced as a performance measure, and has remained at typically 94% - 97%. The conviction rate for 2020-21 was 97% as at 31 August 2020. As this measure reflects the quality of AFP work rather than quantity, this is unlikely to be affected by COVID-19. The quantity of cases used in this calculation has not changed greatly in this time (average 103 cases per month before COVID-19; average 104 cases per month since COVID-19).

- a. As at 31 August 2020, 733 AFP cases were before the Courts. Note that 519 of these reached court before COVID-19. Cases completing "Before Court" status in 2020 remained before court for on average 666 days.

i.

Crime Type	Cases
Aviation incidents	212
Drugs	188
Child exploitation	163
Financial crime	78
Terrorism	22
Cyber crime	18
Victim-based crime	14
Organised crime (other than drugs)	8
Other	30

- b. As at 31 August 2019, 718 AFP cases were before the Courts.