

Question on notice no. 30

Portfolio question number: SQ26-000062

2025-26 Additional estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Portfolio**

Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan: asked the Airservices Australia on 9 February 2026—

Senator CANAVAN[...] Over the last 12 months, how many days has Airservices operated below its planned or preferred staffing levels at major airports?

Mr Curran: I would have to take that on notice to make sure I give a correct answer. Could you confirm the locations you would like me to cover?

Senator CANAVAN: I'm saying major airports, so let's say capital city airports. Could that be broken down by airport too?

Mr Curran: Yes, I think it can be. It'll be a little bit of data to pull together, but I think we can take that on notice.

Senator CANAVAN: Also, could you outline what proportion of those disruptions occurred during planned operating hours as opposed to extraordinary emergency circumstances?

Mr Curran: Just to be clear, on your first question, it may be that Airservices had less than the staffing that we might otherwise strategically plan for, but, if the demand at the airport is below, we would be efficient and not necessarily replace a shift.

Senator CANAVAN: You can note that, but my question is: how many? Obviously, you've got the planned target for a reason, so I still think it's relevant to know whether you're below that, particularly to deal with issues of people calling in sick and the like, which can happen.