

Afternoon.

Below is a response to your enquiry.

The civil dispute between DCS and ESS remains subject to ongoing legal processes. Following the cancellation of the contract, ESS initiated legal proceedings challenging the termination. The matter is therefore sub judice, and the Department continues to defend its position. As such, detailed commentary on the merits of the case is limited to avoid prejudicing the proceedings.

The other questions.

1. What is the figure of parolees that the DCS (under Community Corrections) currently has to account for in i: eThekweni; ii: each province, and iii: South Africa?

Reply:

(i) eThekweni : 2 887

	TOTAL
Durban	493
Pinetown	522
Umlazi	430
Ntuzuma	433
Verulam	222
Kwa- Mashu	190
Nsimbini	201
Umzinto	396
Total	2887

(ii) Each Province

REGION	TOTAL
EC	8 799
FS/NC	5 957
GP	7 611
KZN	10 202
LMN	7 697
WC	4 591
TOTAL	44 857

(iii) South Africa: 44 857

2. What is the figure of absconded parolees that the DCS cannot account for in i: eThekweni; ii: each province, and; iii: South Africa?

(i) eThekweni : 4703

	TOTAL
Durban	2879
Pinetown	412
Umlazi	441
Ntuzuma	474
Verulam	198
Kwa- Mashu	153
Nsimbini	147
Total	4703

(ii) Each Province

REGION	TOTAL
EC	1003
FS/NC	2106
GP	7603
KZN	7604
LMN	3358
WC	6123
TOTAL	27 797

(iii) South Africa : 27 797

3. Of the absconded parolees nationally, how many are considered i: High risk; ii: Medium risk, and iii: Low Risk?

(i) High Risk : 27 797

- (ii) Medium Risk: 00
- (iii) Low Risk : 00

4. How many of the absconders nationally are considered i: recent absconders; ii: absconders (five years and below); iii: absconders (five years and above); archived absconders?

Region	Total absconders (parolees & probationers)	Archived absconders	i: recent absconders	ii: absconders (five years and above)	iii: absconders (five years and below)
EC	928	617	1	195	115
FSNC	2 227	912	0	845	470
GP	9 355	4016	2	3961	1376
KZN	7 073	2919	4	3231	919
LMN	3 885	3075	1	491	318
WC	6 429	4321	0	1142	966
National totals	29 897	15 860	8	9 865	4 164

- (i) Recent absconders : 08
- (ii) Absconders (five years and below) : 4 164
- (iii) Absconders (five years and above) : 9 865
- (iv) Archived absconders : 15 860

5. From the national figure of absconders, how many were convicted for i: murder; ii: rape; iii: attempted murder; iv: attempted rape; v: robbery with aggravating circumstances; vi: kidnapping?

Region	Absconders (ALL)	Murder	Rape	Attempted Murder	Attempted Rape	Robbery with aggravating Circumstance	Kidnapping	Other Crimes
EC	928	115	201	89	54	177	98	194
FSNC	2 227	742	108	256	72	665	124	260
GP	9 355	2263	556	788	243	2682	993	1830

KZN	7 073	1518	897	334	112	1819	406	1987
LMN	3 885	471	734	259	194	522	158	1547
WC	6 429	863	459	557	111	657	227	3555
TOTAL	29 897	5972	2955	2283	786	6522	2006	9373

6. How many cases of violating parole conditions have been registered with the SAPS in relation to absconded parolees in i: eThekweni; ii: each province, and iii: South Africa?

(i) eThekweni : 0

REGION	NUMBER
EC	159
FS/NC	0
GP	3990
KZN	387
LMN	701
WC	2093
TOTAL	7330

(ii) 7330

7. How many parole monitors does the DCS currently employ under Community Corrections in i: eThekweni; ii: each province, and iii: South Africa?

(i) eThekweni : 18 Officials

	TOTAL
Durban	6
Pinetown	3
Umlazi	3
Ntuzuma	5
Verulam	Same officials that are monitoring Ntuzuma are also responsible for Verulam
Kwa- Mashu	Same officials that are monitoring Ntuzuma are also responsible for Kwamashu

Nsimbini	Same officials that are monitoring Umlazi are also responsible for Nsimbini
Umzinto	1
Total	18

(ii) Each province:

REGION	TOTAL
EC	102
FS/NC	131
GP	137
KZN	147
LMN	217
WC	234
TOTAL	968

(iii) South Africa : 968

8. When did DCS disband the tracking and tracing units who were responsible for locating absconded parolees?

The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) has not disbanded tracking and tracing capacity responsible for locating absconded parolees. On the contrary, the Department continues to prioritise and strengthen its ability to trace and re-apprehend absconders through coordinated operational measures.

Tracking and tracing of parole absconders remains an active and ongoing function, undertaken through:

- Dedicated internal capabilities within Community Corrections,
- Collaboration with law enforcement agencies, particularly the South African Police Service (SAPS),
- Intelligence-driven operations and targeted compliance monitoring.

These efforts are yielding tangible results. Parole absconders continue to be located and re-apprehended on an ongoing basis, demonstrating that the system remains functional and responsive.

Importantly, some of these operations have attracted mainstream media coverage, highlighting successful apprehensions and reinforcing public confidence that absconders are not beyond the reach of the law. This visibility underscores the Department's commitment to accountability and public safety.

With regard to the second question, as there has been no disbandment of tracking and tracing units, there is consequently no policy decision or rationale for such a move. Instead, the Department continues to refine and integrate its tracking and tracing approach within broader correctional and law enforcement frameworks to ensure efficiency and sustainability.

In summary, DCS maintains an active, collaborative, and results-driven tracking and tracing capability, and continues to successfully return absconded parolees to the correctional system.

Ends.

Singabakho Nxumalo