



REPORT TO THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD

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Date of Report: 2/21/2023

Type of Report: Public

Title: Cost of Policing Services Ends Report: 2021 Results

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board find that all provisions of the Cost of Policing Services Ends Policy have been complied with.

I hereby submit my report on your Ends Policy “Cost of Policing Services” according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Policy Statement

Policing is a critical public service, and an expensive one for the taxpayer. Financial resources must be treated with great respect and diligence, and the potential for efficiencies examined continually.

It is the policy of the Durham Region Police Service Board that policing shall be provided at a competitive cost, relative to the following similar communities in Ontario:

- Halton,
- Hamilton,
- Niagara,
- Peel,
- Toronto,
- Waterloo and
- York.

Note on Comparator Group: In 2010, the Peel Regional Police decided to cease participation. As a result, no reported data for Peel is available after 2009. In 2021, the Toronto Police Service decided to cease participation. As a result, no reported data for Toronto will be available as of 2021.

DISCUSSION

The following measures will be considered in an assessment of policing costs:

- Cost per capita
- Cost per police member (officers and civilians)
- Cost per police officer

The Chief shall report annually on this policy.

Chief's Interpretation:

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Costs of Police Services is directly related to section 50(1) of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019(CSPA) which imposes a duty on municipalities to provide adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs, and the associated infrastructure and administration necessary for providing such services.

It is my interpretation that the Board, in developing the strategic plan will take into consideration the costs of providing those essential services as outlined in sections 10(1) and 11(1) of the CSPA, and the budgeted costs associated with other services or programs that are deemed to be within the purview of the Service. The Service is required to examine the potential for efficiencies as part of the business planning and budgeting process.

It is my interpretation that assessing cost competitiveness in policing involves annual reporting in relation to cost per capita, cost per police member (civilian and sworn) and cost per police officer. These measures will be derived from the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada reports (formerly known as the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative) which provide historical reporting based on a standard methodology for all municipal contributors. The website address is mbncanada.ca.

It is my interpretation that a competitive cost is one which is similar in quantity to the comparator services and/or to the average of those services.

Data in Support:

Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada is a voluntary organization sponsored by the Chief Administrative Officers of a number of Canadian Municipalities in which the Region of Durham is an active participant. Police Services are represented on an Expert Panel which reviews and advises on performance measures to be compiled, compared and analyzed to aid in improving the provision of services to the public. The reported data will be used to assess DRPS compliance with this Board policy.

The reported data from MBN Canada for 2021 has been collected and certain of the measures collected became public on September 13, 2022. Cost Per Capita and Cost per Staff Member are publicly reported. Cost per Police Officer is not publicly reportable so individual municipal results

may not be released publicly. We have presented the municipal average compared to Durham to make that comparison for this report.

Durham's 2021 results include an expense adjustment of \$13.5 million, which has resulted in notable difference over the 2020 results. The adjustment is based on the Region's actuarial review and is made in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) reporting requirements for Compensated Absences. While this adjustment is reflected in the Region's audited financial statements, it has no impact on the Service's tax funded expenditures for 2021, previously reported to the Board in March 2022.

Cost Per Capita

PLCE227		Operating Cost for Police Services (excluding amortization) per Capita				
Publicly Reportable:		Yes				
Priority Measure:		No				
	Municipality	2021 Result	2020 Result	2019 Result	2018 Result	2017 Result
1	Halton	\$258	\$252	\$251	\$246	\$240
2	Durham	\$326	\$300	\$297	\$288	\$286
3	Waterloo	\$327	\$323	\$302	\$292	\$300
4	York	\$331	\$329	\$309	\$303	\$283
5	Hamilton	\$332	\$323	\$307	\$305	\$308
6	Niagara	\$380	\$362	\$352	\$348	\$348
7	Toronto	N/A	\$395	\$390	\$378	\$389
Average of Municipal Results		\$326	\$326	\$315	\$309	\$308

Note: Durham's 2021 result excluding the PSAS reporting adjustment would have been \$307 and a five-year increase of \$21).

Staffing costs make up the majority of Policing costs, and so there is a strong correlation between those jurisdictions with higher levels of police staff in relation to population and those with higher police costs.

Durham's Cost Per Capita remains at the 2nd lowest of the comparator group for 2021, at \$326. It is on par with the average when reviewed against the comparator services without Toronto.

Over the 5-year period shown, the increase in Durham's Cost Per Capita is \$40, which represents the 2nd highest, with York reporting the highest growth of \$47.

Cost Per Staff Member

PLCE320		Operating Cost for Police Services (excludes amortization) per Police Staff Member (Officers and Civilians)				
Publicly Reportable:		Yes				
Priority Measure:		No				
	Municipality	2021 Result	2020 Result	2019 Result	2018 Result	2017 Result
1	Halton	\$151,748	\$147,370	\$146,609	\$143,202	\$137,462
2	Toronto	N/A	\$149,900	\$146,806	\$141,737	\$142,061
3	Hamilton	\$163,802	\$159,458	\$152,515	\$155,731	\$153,551
4	York	\$169,576	\$169,638	\$157,216	\$157,732	\$147,476
5	Niagara	\$170,768	\$162,371	\$163,453	\$161,768	\$158,886
6	Waterloo	\$178,097	\$172,923	\$162,816	\$158,469	\$161,885
7	Durham (1)	\$182,556	\$165,269	\$163,442	\$158,670	\$156,849
Average of Municipal Results		\$169,425	\$160,990	\$156,122	\$153,901	\$151,167

Note: Durham's 2021 result excluding the PSAS reporting adjustment would have been \$172,014 (or 4.1% increase over 2020).

Durham's Operating Cost per Police Staff Member in 2021 was \$182,556, representing an increase of 10.5% over the 2020 result. This result was 7.8% higher than the average of the comparator group, at \$169,425.

Cost Per Police Officer

Computed		Operating Cost for Police Services (excludes amortization) per Police Officer				
Publicly Reportable:		No				
Priority Measure:		No				
	Municipality	2021 Result	2020 Result	2019 Result	2018 Result	2017 Result
5	Durham	\$251,377	\$231,222	\$229,982	\$226,886	\$223,543
Average of Municipal Results		\$239,562	\$229,041	\$223,160	\$219,457	\$214,265

Note: Durham's 2021 result excluding the PSAS reporting adjustment would have been \$236,860 (or 2.44% increase over 2020).

Durham's Cost per Police Officer measure is computed from the total operating costs divided by the number of police officers. Durham's 2021 operating cost per police services was \$251,377. This represents an increase of 8.72% over the 2020 result.

Durham's 2021 result is 4.93% higher than the comparator average (\$239,562), and represents the 5th lowest of the comparator group, slightly poorer than the 2020 result, being 4th lowest.

Data Reference – MBN Canada' 5 Year Results Report 2017-2021

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Cost of Policing Services Ends Report - 2021 Results.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 9, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Teresa Fetter

Stan MacLellan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TR' followed by a stylized flourish.

Todd Rollauer