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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW BUDGET: $5.2m BOOST FOR COURT SECURITY

Forty Sheriff's Officers employed under the NSW Government's counter terrorism strategy will have their contracts extended by a further 12 months thanks to a $5.2 million funding boost in the 2016-17 NSW State Budget.

The Sheriff's Officers work in Sydney and across major regional areas from Wagga Wagga to Wollongong and Tamworth to Taree.

"Sheriff's Officers play a vital role in strengthening security at major courthouses across the state, and this funding will ensure they can continue their important work," NSW Attorney General Gabrielle Upton said.

"The 40 Sheriff's Officers work closely with police to address any possible threats against the courts.

"They receive specialist training to ensure they have the skills to handle any security issues that occur within the court complex."

Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian said: "The NSW Government takes the issue of court security seriously and will always invest in keeping our community safe."

Last year, there was strong competition for the roles with the Sheriff's Office receiving more than 700 applications.

The new recruits will undergo a rigorous seven weeks of training. The physical component of training will include the use of batons and other appointments, hand-to-hand tactics and escorting people from courts.

The officers conduct routine scans of people entering court facilities and have the power to confiscate weapons and other dangerous items to ensure a safe environment.

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