



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref: Emergency Services Agency

Hearing Date: 18/07/2023

In relation to: Fire and Rescue costs for Overtime and ECO substitution

For the financial years of 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23, and as budgeted for 2023-24:

- (1) What is the overtime bill for ACT Fire & Rescue?
- (2) What is the amount of overtime payments for the deployment of firefighters to shifts of Emergency Communications Officers that were unavailable for duty?
- (3) What is the cost of firefighters covering Emergency Communication Officer shifts as relievers on ordinary (non-overtime) rates?

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- (1) The amount of overtime paid in ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) is provided in the table below.

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Actual/Budget	Actual (m)	Actual (m)	Actual (m)	Actual (m)	Budget (m)
Total	6.934	5.362	4.839	5.975	5.903

2020-21 saw the commencement of the ACTF&R Workforce Strategy and the recruitment of 180 new firefighters which had a direct impact in reducing overtime. The increase in 2022-23 is a result of overtime cost pressures due to the timing of the recruitment of the 180 new firefighters and skills gap in career development created by retiring staff. The 2023-24 ACT Budget includes short-term supplementary funding to address this matter.

- (2) The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) does not report the actual overtime payments at this level. This overtime is included in the above overtime payment to ACTF&R staff.

- (3) The ESA is unable to provide this data, the cost of firefighters who cover ECOs shifts will be dependent on the actual classifications. This cost is included in the normal operational expenditure (salary expenses).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 31/7/2023

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA