



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 TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Cain MLA on 27 July 2023: Ms Nuttall took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Uncorrected Proof Hansard Transcript 27 July 2023 p 75]

In relation to: ACT Coroner

MR CAIN: It was presented as ACT having a full-time coroner. Is that the case, or not?

Mr Rattenbury: Yes, Mr Archer is full-time in the coronial jurisdiction at the moment.

MR CAIN: But is he full-time doing coronial duties?

Mr Rattenbury: Yes, that is my understanding.

MR CAIN: Not other magistrate-type duties?

Ms Nuttall: I am happy to answer that, Mr Cain. Occasionally when there has been unexpected illness, Mr Archer may be requested to undertake another list, and the Chief Magistrate will manage her resources to ensure that all of the business of the court can be met.

MR CAIN: Is he requested or directed?

Ms Nuttall: Well, the Chief Magistrate has a statutory function to manage the business of the court, and it is her role—her statutory role—to determine how matters are listed.

MR CAIN: How frequently is Mr Archer pulled away from his role as coroner?

Ms Nuttall: I would need to take that on notice, Mr Cain.

MR CAIN: Thank you.

SHANE RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Mr Ken Archer was appointed to be the ACT's first dedicated Coroner in March 2022.

However, in addition to being a Coroner, Mr Archer is also a Magistrate and, on occasion, he is required to assist with general list work. Similarly, on occasion, other Magistrates (who are also Coroners) are required to assist with coronial list work. For example, since Mr Archer's commencement, one coronial matter has been allocated to a Coroner other than Mr Archer, due to a conflict of interest.

The table below provides the number of sittings Mr Archer has undertaken for non-coronial matters, and the associated time:

	Number of sittings (incl in chamber)	Sitting time (excluding breaks)
2022*	6	9.6 hours
2023	15	34.4 hours

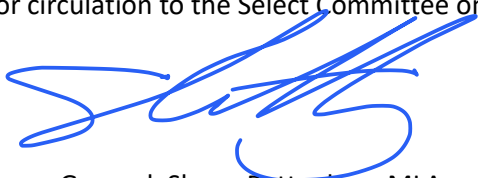
**Includes data from April 2022, following the commencement of the fulltime coroner*

These data relate to occasions of rostering pressure, such as where Magistrates were on leave or unwell.

The data excludes duties in relation to the duty roster. Duty roster duties are undertaken outside normal hours and may be coronial or general in nature.

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

Signature:



Date:

2/8/23

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA