



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Corrections

In relation to: Corrections and AMC staff detected with contraband

Hearing: 17 November 2025

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Answer Due: 01/12/2025

MR RATTENBURY: Ms Barry asked about the breakdown of visitors versus Corrections officers detected with contraband, so you are going to take that on notice. When you do, it would be useful to understand the consequences for those staff who have been detected with contraband. It would be useful for the committee to know what happened. I am not after individuals, but to—

Ms Close: No, no, of course. And it will depend on whether they have actually been identified as bringing contraband in or whether we have intelligence to suspect that they may be, and the way that the process works from that point is that I do not have an investigation power; we refer it to the Professional Standards Unit or the Integrity Commission or ACT Policing, depending on what the intelligence tells us.

Mr Johnson: I think in part the answer to the question might be what is implied, I think, is there might be a number of people that we have identified bringing contraband in who staff are. I do not think that is probably the way to frame it. If we had a person who was a staff member bringing contraband in, that would be dealt with by a referral. So if I am clarifying it, the numbers that we have got would be relating to visitors, not staff.

Ms Close: Yes. In that initial information that you received under FOI.

Mr Johnson: But it is still a valid question and we can still answer the question in the context of staff that were identified as a consequence of possession in the centre, but I think the answer may be zero for that 12 months, but we can certainly still take that on notice, but I thought it was just useful to clarify.

MR RATTENBURY: Yes, I think the nature of the question is to understand is that if staff were detected seeking to introduce contraband—

Ms Close: What are the consequences, yes, yes.

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MR RATTENBURY: —and perhaps also the nature of that contraband. I think there is a difference between, again, to put your mobile phone in the locker and some other types of contraband.

Ms Close: Exactly and that is where the intelligence picture comes in and then depending again what the seriousness of the nature of the allegation is, I can also stand people down immediately or not, depending where the referral goes, and then allow the investigation process to take its course.

THE CHAIR: So just confirming that you are taking that on notice to provide that information? Is that right?

Mr Johnson: Yes, we can take it on notice. I think it is just an expectation that I think that the answer to the part about staff will probably be very low if not zero.

Ms Close: If not zero.

Mr Johnson: And if somebody accidentally brought a phone, it would have been detected at the rotor turn and so there would not have been a record necessarily if staff go, “Oh, sorry”. Or occasionally really important people like myself get an approval to take these in and it is recorded appropriately at entry, so there are other mechanisms.

Ms Close: Well, recently, Mr Rattenbury, we have had staff searches as they have entered the facility and we are doing that routinely now and for example, one person might have brought in some phone cords or something, so—

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Some?

Ms Close: Phone cords. So we would ask them to go and put them back in the car or in a locker so, yes, it depends on the nature of the contraband as well in that respect but we are thinking illicit drugs is the paramount concern.

THE CHAIR: That is correct, or if you can identify specifically whether it is illicit drugs or other contraband, that would be useful, but my focus is on not just illicit drugs, but harmful drugs and all of those things. Yes.

Ms Close: Thank you.

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

[ACT Corrective Services \(ACTCS\) records covering the period 1 July 2024 to 26 November 2025 do not indicate any ACTCS staff members have been identified in possession of contraband or unapproved prohibited items while at the AMC.](#)

[Current practices within the AMC require staff to pass through metal detectors with their personal possessions being subjected to x-ray scanning. Should items be identified during this process and not be considered illicit in nature, staff are given the option to appropriately store items in a locker or their vehicle before entering the centre. These detections are not recorded.](#)

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Should illicit items be identified, the matters will be managed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the ACT *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and the Code of Conduct, and referred to the Professional Standards Unit, the Integrity Commission or ACT Policing depending upon the circumstances and as appropriate.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature: 

Date: 01/12/25

By the Minister for Corrections, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA