



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

**ANSWER TO
QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Mark Parton MLA to ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Ref: Budget Statement G – Housing ACT – end-of-use asset sales

Date (Question Lodged by Member): 07/09/2022

Date (Question Sent to DLO): 08/09/2022

In relation to the sales from end-of-use properties:

- 1. Does Housing ACT manage the sale of any of its own assets when they reach their end-of-use? And if not, which agencies or directorates do? Or is it a combination?**
- 2. What determines whether a sale is managed in-house by Housing ACT or not?**
- 3. Why does Housing ACT not manage the sale of all these assets?**
- 4. Does Housing ACT have visibility of the sales revenues achieved for the sale of the Housing ACT assets they do not sell? And if not, why not?**
- 5. Since 2018, have any Housing ACT end-of-use assets ever been sold to Housing ACT valuers or their spouses/partners? And how would you know if this has even occurred?**
- 6. Since 2018, have any Housing ACT end-of-use assets been sold to Housing ACT staff or their spouses/partners?**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Parton'.

MARK PARTON
Shadow Minister for Transport

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. Housing ACT manages the sale of all end-of-life assets internally, through its Panel of pre-approved and licensed real estate agents.

The only former assets for which the sale was not managed by Housing ACT in recent time, were the larger 13 multi-unit sites disposed of under the previous Public Housing Renewal Program, as the sale of these properties formed part of the ACT Government's broader program of urban renewal and asset recycling.

2. N/A – see response to Question 1.

3. N/A – see response to Question 1.

4. N/A – see response to Question 1.

5. Housing ACT has no record of any former assets having been sold to valuers engaged by Housing ACT, nor their spouses/partners, since 2018.

Should a valuer, or real estate agent, wish to compete at auction for the purchase of a property being sold by the Commissioner for Social Housing, they are required to declare their intention ahead of their registration to bid, for transparency and visibility of activities.

Housing ACT has had one instance, since 2018, where an employee of the listing agent has expressed a genuine interest for purchase. In this instance, Housing ACT requested the agent to return the property to Housing ACT for reallocation to another agent, so that their employee could participate in the auction process, without risk/perceived risk of anti-competitive or collusive behaviour.

6. Since 2018, Housing ACT has only one (1) recorded instance of an end-of-life asset being sold to a current officer. In this instance, the officer declared their desire to purchase and highlighted potential conflict of interest well in advance of the auction. Subsequently, the officer was not involved nor had visibility of any of the sale/pre-sale activities.

Housing ACT's internal sale/purchase data is managed with restricted access rights, to minimise risk of data breach and ensure no unauthorised officers can view information that is not directly related to their current role.

Housing ACT's standard sale process involves taking properties to public auction, to ensure value for money is achieved and general transparency purposes. The sale of this property was consistent with standard process.

The reserve setting process for this sale remained consistent with standard procedure and was supported by the advice of two independent market valuation reports.

In this instance, the property sold for approximately 23 per cent above the advised valuation range, demonstrating that value for money was achieved.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves.

Date: 15/09/22

By Minister Yvette Berry, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

