



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson  
MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Member)

Inquiry into Auditor - General's Performance Audit Reports January -  
June 2023

Question Taken on Notice (Committee)

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**Asked by:** Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

**Addressed to:** Minister for Business and Better Regulation

**Reference:** UPT page 33

**Hearing Date:** 9 November 2023

**In relation to:** AG Performance audit report 1/2023 and Construction Licensing application and Failure rate

**Question Lodgement Date:** 9 November 2023

**Mr Pettersson:** So, I was wondering if you could provide some type of indication of the failure rate at the different stages of this licensing process.

**Mr Lhuede:** I would have to take that on notice. How many applications we receive, and we can do that by class and how many are rejected and on what grounds.

**Ms Cheyne:** Can we break it down, Mr Lhuede, to at what point in the process the failure is?

**Mr Lhuede:** Yes.

**Mr Pettersson:** Wonderful, thank you.

**Minister for Business and Better Regulation:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Access Canberra has advised that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form. The effort to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require a considerable diversion of resources. This includes breaking down total applications received via the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* and applications received for licences that have lapsed and a reissue is requested.

Access Canberra on behalf of the Construction Occupations Registrar (the Registrar) applies a pass/fail approach to the assessment of builder licence applicants under the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004* (the Act). Whether an applicant passes or fails an assessment is determined by consideration of multiple factors including their online questionnaire and any subsequent answers and discussions that take place at the interview, their qualifications and experience under the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) (Qualifications) Declaration 2023*, and other factors relating to their eligibility to hold a licence, including previous occupational discipline. While each stage of assessment for each licence is recorded and kept on file for that applicant, the existing databases and information management systems do not track or record individual stages of assessment. These elements of information management were highlighted in the Auditor-General's report, particularly at Recommendations 1, 4 and 5, and Access Canberra have commenced improvements that will go towards addressing these issues.

Further, when assessing an individual's builder licence application, Access Canberra provides applicants an opportunity to withdraw their application if they do not meet the qualifications and work experience component of the assessment. This allows the applicant to reapply with ease when ready to do so, without a licence refusal on their record. For this reason, licence refusal figures would not reflect overall failure rates.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



Date:

17/11/23

By the Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Tara Cheyne MLA