



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections

In relation to: **Fires and lighters in the Prison**

Ref: Budget Outlook 2020-21, Output 2.1, Table C.1: 2020-21 Infrastructure Investment Program – Works-in-progress, line item “Alexander Maconochie Centre Fire Services Systems Capital Refresh Program”, p247

1. What will the funding for this line item be spent on?
2. Are inmates allowed to freely carry cigarette lighters?
 - a. If so, why?
3. How much did inmate caused fire related incidents and damage cost the AMC during the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-21 ytd?
4. What is the estimated cost to the AMC from damages caused by the riot in November 2020?
5. Is there a base cost to the AMC for even small cell-based fires that do not cause significant damage?
6. Are there cells in the AMC that use Vesda sensors?
 - a. How many cells use Vesda sensors?
 - b. What is the individual unit price for each sensor?
 - c. Are they replaced after every detected fire?

Mick Gentleman MLA: I am advised that the answer to the Member’s questions are as follows:–

1. This funding will be used for equipment, which includes wet and dry fire systems and components, the associated installation costs and project administration costs.
2. Detainees are permitted to carry cigarette lighters.
 - a. Detainees are permitted to smoke in designated areas within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
3. The costs for each financial year are as follows, noting such incidents are covered through insurance:
 - a. \$193,020 in 2018-2019.
 - b. \$92,235 in 2019-2020.
 - c. \$231,337 in 2020-2021. This figure is YTD February 2021.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS No. 114

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4. The current total estimated cost to repair damage associated with the November 2020 incident at the AMC is approximately \$5,731,000.
5. The base cost to the AMC for any fire is that of a fire technician, which is approximately \$540.
6. Yes, all cell accommodation has Vesda sensor protection.
 - a. 195 cells use Vesda sensors.
 - b. Different types of unit are used – the cost per unit including installation ranges from \$4,000 to \$8,500.
 - c. The sensors are not replaced after every detected fire. A qualified fire technician attends the site to assess the Vesda unit for faults and damage. Units which have no issues or faults impacting their operability are left in place but units that are damaged or in fault are replaced.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature: 

Date: 25/3/2021

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA