



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

Ref: Corrections, JACS Annual Report 2020-21 p169

In relation to: Smoking at the AMC and WorkSafe Notices

1. According to the Corrections Management (Smoking) Policy, smoking is prohibited in indoor areas of the AMC except for the Crisis Support Unit (CSU). Why then, are detainees being permitted to smoke in indoor areas including cells and accommodations?
2. Why are detainees who are trying to quit being exposed to second-hand smoking in their accommodations after hours?
3. How many charges have been laid on detainees for smoking in a non-smoking area for the last four years?
4. How many charges have been laid on detainees for smoking in a non-smoking area since the notification of the detainee discipline policy?
5. How many designated smoking areas are there at the AMC?
6. Can the Minister attach to his answer, the original WorkSafe notice issued to ACTCS dated in March 2021 and the revised improvement notice dated 14 May 2021?

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

1. Detainees are not permitted to smoke within indoor areas, except for the Crisis Support Unit. Detainees who are found to be smoking within indoor areas may be subject to disciplinary action.
2. Detainees are not permitted to smoke within indoor areas, including after hours. Detainees who observe smoking occurring within indoor areas can report this to a Correctional Officer.
3. From 2018 to 2022 there have been ninety-three (93) disciplines as a result of smoking in a non-smoking area.
4. Since the newest *Detainee Discipline Policy 2022* was notified on 28 January 2022, there have been no disciplines recorded for smoking in a non-smoking area.

5. There are approximately 45 designated smoking areas in or around the AMC.
6. ACTCS are actively working with WorkSafe ACT in responding to the Improvement Notice. The notice has been extended to June 2022, in acknowledgement of actions taken and the complexities in transitioning a correctional centre to a smoke-free environment. The WorkSafe Improvement Notice issued to ACTCS dated 14 May 2021 is attached. There was no Worksafe notice issued to ACTCS dated March 2021.

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

Signature: 

Date: 21/3/2022

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA