



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 01 November 2022, Annual Report of Justice and Community Safety 2021-2022, page 76

In relation to: The justice housing program (JPH)

1. Does the government verify a detainee has suitable housing before they leave the JHP?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If so, how is that verification conducted?
2. What is the average length of stay for a detainee in the JHP?
3. How many people are on the waiting list for the JHP as of 01 November 2022?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) will conduct a Home Visit Assessment for offenders exiting the Justice Housing Program (JHP), if they are under supervision orders, and where having a suitable address is a condition of that order. JHP occupants who are no longer supervised by ACTCS will receive assistance from the JHP service provider to secure appropriate accommodation when they exit the program.
 - a. As above.
 - b. Home Visit Assessments are conducted by a Community Corrections Officer (CCO) to determine the suitability of a proposed residence. It provides the opportunity to identify:
 - i. pro-social supports to assist with ongoing sentence management,
 - ii. an awareness of risks, including but not limited to the residence, co-residents, and visitors, and
 - iii. an awareness of risks the offender may pose, including but not limited to the residence, co-residents, and visitors.
2. From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, the average length of stay in the JHP was 80 days for female clients and 113 days for male clients.
3. ACTCS does not have a 'waitlist' for the JHP. The program's vacancy rates can vary significantly due to a number of interpersonal and sentencing factors. Detainees are assessed for their suitability to participate in the JHP in advance of their potential release date (i.e., court date, Sentence Administration Board (SAB) hearing date). Their allocation to a JHP property is

dependent on program vacancies at the time of their release, as well as their court/SAB outcomes. As at 1 November 2022, there are currently 20 detainees (17 males and 3 females) who have been found suitable to participate in the JHP.

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

Signature: 

Date: 17/11/2022

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA