



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

In relation to: Prosecutions – Attorney-General and Prosecutions for unlawful use of force

Hearing: 20 November 2025
Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 4
Transcript provided: 27/11/2025
Answer Due: 04/12/2025

MR RATTENBURY: Thank you. Are you able to provide this, and I suspect this will be on notice, but how many cases in ACT courts in the last year have involved the use of unlawful force or unlawful use of force by officers how many times that has been prosecuted in the territory in the last 12 months or some suitable data period, I appreciate that challenges around data?

Ms Cheyne: Sure. I will take that on notice, perhaps in taking that on notice, I do not necessarily accept that the use of force in this circumstance was unlawful, I do not necessarily know that.

Ms Tara CHEYNE MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

There is no specific criminal offence titled *unlawful use of force*. Where force is alleged to be unlawful, the relevant criminal offence would typically fall under assault-related provisions including:

- Assault causing Bodily Harm
- Assault causing Grievous Bodily Harm
- Other aggravated assault offences.

Between 1 July 2023 and 31 October 2025, AFP Professional Standards has no recorded instances where AFP appointees were charged in the course of their duties with offences relating to unlawful use of force; this includes offences that fall under assault related provisions.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:

By the Attorney-General, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

15/12/25

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