



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on Tuesday, 18 July 2023: Minister Gentleman took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript Tuesday, 18 July 2023 [PAGES 36,38]]

In relation to: Electronic Monitoring

MRS KIKKERT: You spoke about how technology has evolved, and that is why you are currently not using it, but when it was first introduced to the Assembly back in 2001, they did speak about the electronic monitoring, and:

Intensive supervision will be used to ensure compliance with curfews imposed under home detention. This involves the installation of a home monitoring unit in the offender's residence. Each offender will be required to wear a tamperproof wristlet or anklet that sends a continuous signal to the home monitoring unit.

This was in 2001. Technology was pretty good back then 20 years ago to have electronic monitoring when the Liberals in government introduced it back in 2001, and then in 2006 you basically cancelled electronic monitoring. Why did you cancel electronic monitoring when it was proven to be quite effective at that time with the electronic system at that time?

...

MRS KIKKERT: —the cancellation of the system—it was due to low referral, and the target was eight at that time, so you must have reached a number—two or three or four people that required electronic monitoring. I am just wondering is that not enough to have kept the system going instead of cancelling it in 2006?

Mr Glenn: Mrs Kikkert, I do not think anybody at this table was actually involved in that decision making. I do not think we can answer that question.

Mr Gentleman: That is why I took the question on notice in the first place.

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: —

The ACT introduced home detention as a means of serving a sentence of imprisonment of less than 18 months through Home Detention Orders under the *Rehabilitation of Offenders (Interim) Act 2001*. Compliance was supervised by ACT Corrective Services and included electronic monitoring. The technology available at the time restricted monitoring to indicating whether a person was at a monitored place but was not capable of detecting where the person was if they left the monitored

place. The monitored place was normally the persons residence. Compliance with Home Detention Orders was supported by contact from a Corrections Officer in person and by telephone up to 20 times within a 28-day period.

Low numbers of people found suitable and completing Home Detention Orders led to the decision to phase the scheme out. Home detention as a sentence was phased out by the *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005*, which provided a range of alternative sentencing options, including periodic detention. That was not suitable for electronic monitoring given the limited technical capabilities at that time. The *Rehabilitation of Offenders (Interim) Act 2001* was repealed by the *Sentencing Legislation Amendment Act 2006*.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date: 26/7/2023

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA