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### Deputy Chief Police Officer Response

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17 July 2015

Mr Brendan Smyth MLA  
Chair  
Select Committee on Estimates 2015-16  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020,  
Canberra, ACT 2601.

Dear Mr Smyth

On 25 June 2015, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the ACT Policing Director of Corporate Services Chris Hayward and myself in the capacity of Chief Police Officer for the ACT appeared before the Select Committee on Estimates chaired by you.

I am writing to advise you that during my appearance, I placed incorrect information before the Committee which requires correction. The provision of incorrect information was not intentional; the data provided in my briefing material, to which I referred to, was not accurate.

The Hansard transcript records the following statistics in relation to Random Breath Testing and Random Roadside Drug Testing:

*A/CPO Bourke: The back capture is the 2013 financial year. ACT Policing conducted 148,295 random breath tests in which 1,348 drivers were identified as being over the prescribed limit. That is a ratio of about one in 109 for positive tests.*

*In that same period 2013-14, 2,543 random roadside drug tests were undertaken and 268 drivers returned positive readings. This is a ratio of one in 11.*

*In the first three quarters of the 2014-15 year we conducted 113,100 random breath tests. 760 were identified, which is a positive rate of one per 11. So it is fairly much static; that really has not changed—positives for drink-driving.*

*However, in respect of random drug tests, 2,076 tests were done and 269 drivers recorded positive results—a return rate of 1.8, one in eight.*

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The correction to the statistics, as underlined, needs to portray:

- For the 2013-14 financial year ACT Policing conducted 148,295 random breath tests of which 1,348 drivers/driver trainers were identified as being the prescribed concentration of alcohol. That is a ratio of approximately one in 110 drivers/driver trainers returning a positive test for alcohol by breath.
- For the 2013-14 financial year ACT Policing conducted 2,542 random roadside drug tests of which 268 drivers/driver trainers returned a positive reading for the presence of a prescribed drug. This is a ratio is approximately one in 9.5 drivers/driver trainers.
- In the first three quarters of the 2014-15 financial year ACT Policing conducted 110,180 random breath tests of which 873 drivers/driver trainers were identified as being the prescribed concentration of alcohol. That is a ratio of approximately one per 126 drivers/driver trainers
- In the first three quarters of 2014-15 financial year ACT Policing conducted 1986 random roadside drug tests of which 276 drivers/driver trainers returned a positive reading for the presence of a prescribed drug. This is a ratio of approximately one in 7 drivers/driver trainers.

The error arose from a discrepancy in the databases used to acquire the data and I am satisfied the amended data is both reliable and accurately portrays both the effort by ACT to remove impaired drivers from the roads, whilst also accurately portraying the prevalence of impaired driving in those drivers and/or driver trainers tested.

On 14 July 2015 ACT Policing was advised of the statistical errors by the Secretary for the Estimates Committee and upon conducting an internal audit of the data and methodology for extracting the same, I am providing you with advice regarding the need to correct my submission at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Commander John Bourke  
Deputy Chief Police Officer for the ACT

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