



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police and Crime Prevention

Reference: ACT Budget Statement D

Hearing Date: 02/08/2024

In relation to: Justice and Community Safety Directorate (Code Blacks)

QON lodgement Date: 06/08/2024

Answer Due date: 08/08/2024

- a) Has there ever been an instance where police did not or could not attend a code black?
- b) How many instances have there been and what are the circumstances of these incidents?
- c) Is there a specific code that would define/communicate knife/gun?

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

A

Has there ever been an instance where police did not or could not attend a code black?

ACT Policing is unable to provide accurate data of instances where hospital 'code black' incidents were not attended, as the term 'code black' is hospital specific terminology. There is no 'check box' in ACT Policing's computer aided dispatch (CAD) system for a 'code black'.

If a 'code black' type of call from the hospital is received by ACT Policing, the operator will create a job in CAD, include all necessary details and prioritise the response accordingly.

B

How many instances have there been and what are the circumstances of these incidents?

While ACT Policing is not able to confirm the number of code blacks responded to, since 1 January 2010, ACT Policing has recorded 13 incidents where the term 'code black' was referenced in CAD.

Circumstances of these 13 matters included attempting to escape from the AMHU, person carrying a weapon, duress alarm being activated and a violent incident.

C

IS THERE A SPECIFIC CODE THAT WOULD DEFINE/COMMUNICATE KNIFE/GUN?

There is no specific code that would define/communicate knife/gun. Police attendance is not activated by calling a code, but as a result of a dynamic risk assessment to determine if further escalation is required. Contact with the police would be via a phone call, describing the incident and any weapons present. Calling a code, i.e. Code Black, is an internal Canberra Health Services process.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 

By the Minister for Police and Crime Prevention, Mick Gentleman MLA