



## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Milligan MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 23 November 2023, Annual Report of Justice and Community Safety Directorate

In relation to: Overtime Payments for ESA personnel

Question Lodgement Date: 20/11/2023

(1) Minister, can you provide a detailed list of the overtime spend for the ESA for the financial years 2016-2023?

- (a) What percentage of the ESA budget is the overspend?
- (b) How much is the overtime in dollars per day?
- (c) What is the reason for the overspend and significant increases?

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

(1) The table below provides the overtime spend for the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) for each of the financial years from 2016 to 2023:

<b>Year</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
2022/23	9,658
2021/22	8,427
2020/21	10,011
2019/20	11,753
2018/19	9,600
2017/18	8,682
2016/17	7,703

1(a)-(c) The figures in the table above show actual expenditure. To support the provision of a 24-hour service to the ACT community, it is necessary for ESA personnel to work overtime. As far as practicable, the ESA includes overtime as part of its planned budget.

The amount of overtime paid each year depends on several factors, one of which is the number of significant emergency incidents that ESA personnel are required to attend in a particular year. For example, the overtime paid in 2019-20 and 2020-21 is higher due to the response to the January 2020 bushfire and storm, and the assistance provided during the COVID-19 health pandemic.

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

Signature:



Date: 11/02/2023

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA