



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In relation to: **Drug and alcohol testing**

Ref EBT 1 - ACT Policing

1. In answering the questions below define a drug or alcohol test session i.e. an organised process of random roadside testing?
2. In answering the questions below define a test?
3. In each of the past ten calendar years what was the number of random roadside
 - a. Alcohol test sessions
 - b. Drug test sessions
 - c. Combined alcohol and drug test sessions
4. In each of the past ten calendar years what was the number of random roadside
 - a. Alcohol tests
 - b. Drug tests divided by category of drug tested
 - c. Combined alcohol and drug tests
5. In each of the past ten calendar years what was the number of non-random roadside
 - a. Alcohol tests
 - b. Drug tests divided by category of drug tested
 - c. Combined alcohol and drug testswhere no accident was involved.
6. In each of the past ten calendar years what was the number of non-random roadside
 - a. Alcohol tests
 - b. Drug tests divided by category of drug tested
 - c. Combined alcohol and drug testswhere an accident was involved.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS No. 86

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

1. Random Breath Testing (RBT) and Random Drug Testing (RDT) sessions are a planned, static testing site. Police set up in a location with the intent of conducting a large amount of RBTs and RDTs, providing a highly noticeable police presence to ACT road users.
2. A 'test' is defined in the *Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1977*:
 - Alcohol screening test (RBT) for a person means a test of a sample of the person's breath using an alcohol screening device.
 - Drug screening test (RDT) for a person means a test of a sample of the person's oral fluid using a drug screening device.

3. Within the last ten calendar years:

- a. Alcohol test sessions:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tests	501	536	614	823	975	1200	799	557	555	745	247

Source: ACT Policing PROMIS

- b. It is ACT Policing policy to conduct an alcohol test prior to a drug test. Therefore, there are no events recorded as 'drug test sessions' only.

- c. Combined alcohol and drug test sessions:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tests	0	12	5	15	3	6	7	15	6	4	2

Source: ACT Policing PROMIS

4. Within the last ten years, the number of random roadside tests per calendar year:

- a. Alcohol tests per calendar year:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tests	97,612	100,217	93,816	136,647	150,895	121,416	117,717	92,376	89,989	90,281	39,355

Source: ACT Policing PROMIS

- In recent years, ACT Policing shifted from a traditional bulk approach to RBTs, to a more targeted, intelligence-led approach.
- The COVID19 pandemic presented challenges for ACT Road Policing and impacted on roadside alcohol and drug testing operations.



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- b. ACT Policing is only able to provide the number of RDT tests conducted, and cannot divide this into categories of drugs tested for. These records are held by financial year, and are not obtainable prior to 2015 due to limitations on recorded information in ACT Policing's database.

Drug tests per financial year:

Financial Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020 – 1 March 2021
Tests	2,494	2,428	3,895	3,541	3,541*	1,638*

Source: The database used by ACT Policing for recording this activity is external to PROMIS.

*COVID restrictions.

- c. ACT Policing is unable to provide an accurate response to the number of combined alcohol and drug tests within the last ten years, as it would require the diversion of police resources to undertake a manual review of all traffic incidents recorded on internal police databases.
5. ACT Policing only conducts non-random roadside tests where a collision is involved.
6. ACT Policing is unable to provide the number of non-random roadside tests involving an accident over the last ten years, as this would require the diversion of police resources to undertake a manual review of all collisions recorded within the internal police database PROMIS.

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

Signature:

Date: 23/3/2021

By the Minister for Police and Emergency, Mick Gentleman MLA