



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Mr Peter Cain, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Community Corrections 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
16-17 February 2022

Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson on 16 February 2022: Ms Karen Doran took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 16 February 2022 [PAGE 10]]

In relation to:

Is there an opportunity for electronic monitoring in the ACT and is this something that is being considered?

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


The ACT operated an electronic monitoring scheme in conjunction with home detention from 2001 to 2004. Offenders who received a sentence of less than eighteen months were provided the opportunity to serve their sentence at home, enabling participation in employment, school and maintaining family ties, while subject to constant electronic surveillance.

In 2004 a review was undertaken on home detention, which found low referral and uptake rates, as well as a low completion rate. Due to the lack of utility, a decision to phase out home detention was made by the ACT Government prior to introduction of the *Crimes (Sentencing) Bill 2005*, which provides for other sentencing options. Re-establishing a home detention scheme was considered around 2013 to mitigate accommodation pressures at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

ACT Corrective Services subsequently explored the feasibility of introducing Electronic Monitoring (EM) around 2016-17, including consultation with other jurisdictions where EM has been used for a number of years. EM was not pursued further due to a range of limiting factors, including technological limitations, potential service delivery and outcome issues, and resource implications.

Future consideration of Electronic Monitoring is a matter for Government and may require legislative amendments.

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

Signature: 

Date: 23/3/2022

By the Minister for Corrections, Mr Mick Gentleman