



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) What is policy and or criteria used by ACT in deciding whether to issue a media release relating to the arrest or charging an individual or their subsequent appearance in court?
- (2) In deciding in whether to issue a media release, what considerations are made about vulnerabilities of these individuals, in particular young people?
- (3) How do media releases relating to the arrest, charging, or court appearances contribute to Canberra as a restorative city?
- (4) For the 2020-21 financial year, how many individuals under the age of 18 were:
  - (a) arrested?
  - (b) charged?
  - (c) convicted?
- (5) For the 2021-22 financial year, how many individuals under the age of 18 were:
  - (a) arrested?
  - (b) charged?
  - (c) convicted?
- (6) For the 2020-21 financial year, how many media releases were issued by ACT Policing that related to the arrest, charging, or court appearance of someone under the age of 18?
- (7) For the 2021-22 financial year, how many media releases were issued by ACT Policing that related to the arrest, charging, or court appearance of someone under the age of 18?
- (8) For the 2020-21 financial year, how many individuals under the age of 18 who were arrested, charged or appeared in court were referred to in media releases issued by ACT Policing?
- (9) For the 2021-22 financial year, how many individuals under the age of 18 who were arrested, charged or appeared in court were referred to in media releases issued by ACT Policing?
- (10) Of these individuals identified in questions 7 and 8 above, how many were:
  - (a) arrested (either at the time or subsequently)?
  - (b) charged (either at the time or subsequently)?
  - (c) convicted (either at the time or subsequently)?
  - (d) matters remain outstanding

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

1. ACT Policing issues media releases to inform the public of operational outcomes, to assist police operations such as missing persons and as an educative platform for the public on matters like road safety. The decision to issue a media release is made on a case-by-case basis.
2. All media releases are written in such a way that the information does not allow a charged person to be identified. All other considerations are made on a case-by-case basis – consistent with court reporting conventions.
3. All police services have a responsibility to provide open and honest information to the public they serve. This includes informing the public when people have been charged with crimes, when public assistance is sought and to educate the public about issues such as road safety.
4.
  - a. 267 arrested
  - b. 575 charged
  - c. 99 convicted

Individuals that were charged/arrested/convicted more than once during a financial year were counted each time they were arrested/charged/convicted.

ACT Policing counted any individual under 18 with a charge that had one of the following court results as convicted:

- Convicted with recognisance
- Fined
- Imprisoned
- Imprisoned with recognisance
- Penalty, in default, detention
- Sentenced to rising of court
- Suspended sentence with recognisance

5.
  - a. 260 arrested
  - b. 521 charged
  - c. 53 convicted

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6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Answering questions 6 – 10 requires a manual interrogation of all media releases issued in the last two years. Question 10 will also require cross-referencing the ACT Policing case management system for court outcomes. This would be an onerous task that would unreasonably divert police resources.

Additionally, all ACT Policing media releases issued since 2014 are available at [www.policenews.act.gov.au/news/media-releases](http://www.policenews.act.gov.au/news/media-releases)

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date: 13/9/2022

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