



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 Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections

In relation to: **AMC capacity scopes prior to construction.**

Ref: Estimates Hearing on Thursday, 25th February 11am-12pm, Output 2.1.

During the hearing, Mr Hanson said to Mr Gentleman that there were documents that stated there was scoping that suggested the prison should have been built larger than it was.

1. Can the Minister confirm that the prison project committee received reports that suggested the size and scope of the AMC would/should be a total bed capacity of 480 including secure cells, residential rooms, transitional release and periodic detention?
 - a. Who did this report come from and what was the title of the report?
2. What other projections and suggestions was the Government provided with for the total bed capacity?
 - a. Who provided these projections?

Mick Gentleman MLA: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Yes, a report was received on the suggested size and scope of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) which recommended a total of 480 beds.
 - a. The report was titled the '*ACT Prison Project*' and was completed by Rengain in 2001.
2. Early forecasts for the ACT prison were produced in 2002/2003 by justice sector researcher and statistician, John Walker, and by ACT Treasury. Mr Walker projected the ACT would reach between 326 and 348 detainees by 2021. Projections developed by Treasury forecast detainee numbers to reach a peak of 275 detainees by June 2042.
 - a. These projections were provided by Mr Walker and Treasury respectively.

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

Signature: 

Date: 23/3/2021

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA