



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January 2022 – June 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
8 December 2022

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on 8 December 2022: Damian West took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard [uncorrected] Proof Transcript 8 December 2022, Page 26]

In relation to:

MR PETERSSON: No, it is all right. You were having a good time. JACS and TCCS including information about the types of internal fraud in their annual reports. Is there a reason other directorates do not?

Mr West: Not that I am aware of, but I might have to look at that and come back to you on that one.

MR PETERSSON: Potentially just oversight?

Mr West: I would not suggest oversight. I am not familiar with what they are reporting on, so I would need to check their annual reports and just actually be clear about what they are reporting, how they are clarifying it and what they are reporting on.

Ms Thompson: And sometimes it can be challenging in terms of the smaller areas and the smaller number of matters and so reporting on it could have some implications for privacy or confidentiality. And I think the Auditor made that comment.

MR PETERSSON: Yes. I think the comment was about surveys as opposed to reporting in annual reports, but it is a fair point. Thank you.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2022 (Directions) provides the reporting requirements for all the ACT Government entities. At a minimum, the Directions require reporting entities to provide information on fraud detection strategies including the number of reports or allegations of fraud or corruption received during the year and actions or outcomes of any investigations.

Each reporting entity decides itself to include additional information considering privacy and confidentiality concerns for these sensitive matters, and their implications on ongoing investigations.

Consistent with the privacy concerns for the sensitive nature and smaller number of matters, in paragraph 2.67 of the relevant Auditor-General Report (Report No.2 of 2022 Fraud Prevention), the Auditor-General comments that whilst details of fraud and corruption risks may be required to be reported, *“given that annual reports are public, it is appropriate that this information is not reported”*.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 17.12.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA