



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Dr Paterson MLA on Tuesday, 14 November 2023: Amanda Nuttall took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 14 November 2023 [PAGE 20-21]

In relation to: Sentencing data analysis

DR PATERSON: Attorney-General, my question is with respect to a question on the notice paper number 34 where I asked about different types of dangerous driving crimes for the last eight years perhaps, and some more clarity on the sentences from the dangerous driving report. In the response that I got it says “Responses are limited to the period 2019-20 to 22-23 reflecting the availability of reliable data.” I am just wondering why is data prior to 2019 unreliable?

Ms Nuttall: Amanda Nuttall, CEO, ACT Courts and Tribunal. Dr Paterson, we upgraded the case management in 2019 and the data that was in the earlier case management system was not reliability able to be transferred into the new system. So, we have not been able to provide that data. That was collected in the old system.

DR PATERSON: The data is still exists though, does it not, because the—

Ms Nuttall: It is about the way the data can be interrogated from the system. So it is just not able to be interrogated in the same way. One of the reasons for updating the case management system was so that we could have better capability in extracting data.

DR PATERSON: I guess that sort of goes to the second part of my question. Again, I am concerned about the data that is being presented, that it goes to there are multiple repeats in the data. So the sentencing data does list the charge against a specific offence but what that means if an offender has committed multiple crimes, then that same sentence is used multiple times across—in the determination of these results. My question is I feel that the numbers presented are problematic and I guess my question is, has there been any consideration of having some data analysis done to be able to replicate the results of, you know, what we are—what was presented in the questions on notice.

Ms Nuttall: I am sorry, Dr Paterson, I cannot recall what the exact nature of our response was

to that. It was some time since we did that. The Courts and Tribunal are undertaking some work on data integrity and collection of our data. We concede that the collection of data has not entirely been satisfactory, and we are working on some rules and terms of data entry that will assist us in being able to have more reliable data. I am not entirely sure how we have double counted in that, so I am not really sure that the issue is. I can take that on notice in terms of if any of our work will rectify that particular issue.

SHANE RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

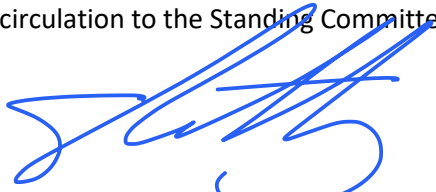
The data provided in QON1392 was valid.

- Only data from 2019-20 onwards were provided because the ACT Courts and Tribunal (ACTCT) changed its core case management system in 2019. Although all data in the previous system was kept, the new system enables ACTCT to interrogate data efficiently and effectively to meet business, operational, and reporting requirements.
- As stated in QON1392, the unit of measurement is a charge, and questions related to suspended sentence could not be answered because of the way in which suspension orders were often related and attributed to multiple charges. This is not a limitation of data, system, or data-capturing processes.

ACTCT is working towards improving data collection, reliability and interpretation, including in collaboration with ACT Policing, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

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

Signature:



Date: 24/1/23

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA