



## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023**

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Kikkert MLA :

Reference: Hearing on 14 November 2023, Annual Report of Justice and Community Safety Directorate, page 71, Corrections Output 2.1

In relation to: Employment Services at AMC

Question Lodgement Date: 21/11/2023

- (1) How many businesses have agreed to be contacted by the AMC for the purposes of soliciting employment opportunities for detainees?
  - (a) Can the Minister give a general description of the services each business provides?
  - (b) How many of these businesses initiated the relationship with the AMC?
  - (c) How many of these businesses were first approached by the AMC?
- (2) Do businesses receive any incentives for employing detainees?
- (3) What are the main concerns business holders have with employing a detainee?
  - (a) How has the AMC addressed these concerns?
- (4) How many detainees have paid employment outside of the AMC and what is their FTE?
- (5) How many detainees in the 2022-2023 reporting period had paid employment outside the FTE?
  - (a) How many detainees in the same period were let go from their employment?
    - (i) What were the reasons for giving for each instance of this?
- (6) Are detainees actively encouraged by the AMC to sign up with a union or given any union advertising material prior to employment?
- (7) Does the AMC provide transport for detainees to their places of work or are detainees or the employer responsible for organising transport?
- (8) In answer to QON 939, the Minister stated that performance expectations in relation to the ACTCS employment specialists will be reviewed. Since providing that answer, what has changes have there been to performance expectations?

MICK GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1) As of 24 November 2023, there are 12 business engaged for the purpose of providing employment opportunities for detainees.
  - a) The majority of the businesses engaged with ACTCS provide general unskilled manual labour services including scaffolding, recycling processes, gardening/grounds

maintenance, manufacturing and general labouring. There are also government agencies who have engaged in offering employment opportunities for detainees.

- b) Six.
- c) Six.

- 2) Businesses do not receive any incentives from ACTCS for employing detainees.
- 3) There may be many reasons that a potential employer does not wish to employ detainees and it would not be appropriate to assume the motivations of potential employers both to seek out detainees as employees or not to do so.
  - a) ACTCS have endeavoured to address any individual employer concerns primarily through the role of the Employment Specialist (ES). The role of the ES is to consult with businesses to understand the business needs and type of work culture to ensure the appropriate placement of a detainee. The ES will identify if the business prefers a more controlled environment/service system around the detainee to lower the potential risk to the business. If so, the ES will recommend the business employ a detainee engaged in the Transitional Release Program. If the business has the capacity to employ a detainee who may be supported by a less controlled environment/service system, the ES will recommend the business employ an offender on a community-based order. ACTCS also educate employers the potential impacts of employment on reducing recidivism. Further information and support is provided to businesses on how to minimise their concerns.
- 4) There are currently four detainees employed outside of the AMC. All employees are paid within the business holder's FTE. ACTCS is not advised of this information and it is not requested as part of the assessment process.
- 5) In FY2022/23, there were eight detainees with FTE employment.
  - a) No detainees were terminated by their employer.
    - i) N/A.
- 6) ACTCS provides all documentation provided by the employer, including union material.
- 7) ACTCS transport detainees to their place of employment according to detainee requirements.
- 8) The ACTCS Employment Specialist has continued to meet their performance expectations and another position has been created to meet the growing demand for post release employment services.

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

Signature:



Date: 30/11/2023

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA