



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

In relation to: Knife possession data

Hearing: 13 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 31

Transcript provided: 17 February 2025

Answer Due: 24 February 2025

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MR RATTENBURY: Yes, I did hear the Chief Police Officer discussing this matter on radio recently. My recollection was he actually indicated the number of police detections of people carrying a knife as consistent with previous years. Are you aware of that and are you able to provide us the data from, say, the last five years of the number of matters where police identified somebody inappropriately or illegally carrying a knife?

Ms Cheyne: We will do our best, Mr Cain, Mr Rattenbury, but in fact, I am reading your tabling statement in response to the Assembly resolution last year. And it does say the statistics do not show that offences involving knives are significantly greater in public places and schools and in other locations in the ACT. And in fact, the statistics show that the number of offences involving a knife have remained steady over the past five years.

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Number of apprehensions relating to possession of a knife without reasonable excuse reported by ACT Policing				
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
120	108	110	121	111

Source: PROMIS as of 13 February 2025

OFFICIAL

- The following table outlines offences where the 'weapons used in the offence' checkbox has been selected in PROMIS and case officers have selected knife or a sharp instrument. Used or involved generally means where the weapon was an aggravating factor for the case or in the offence, however, the offender who may or may not have been identified may have only been in possession of this weapon type.

Number of offences reported to ACT Policing where a knife or sharp instrument was used or involved*					
Offence Type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Homicide	1	7	2	2	6
Assault	71	99	66	77	70
Sexual offences	2	2	1	1	3
Other offences against the person	16	36	20	27	19
Robbery	68	35	59	52	44
Other offences against property	3	1	1	0	2
Burglary	26	30	45	24	40
Stolen Motor vehicle	4	7	7	3	3
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	17	23	46	18	37
Property damage	93	79	86	91	70
Justice procedures	6	5	6	4	5
Firearms and weapons	136	141	132	175	163
Other offences against good order	7	20	7	6	9
Drug offences	5	1	0	1	3
Traffic Offences	2	6	2	3	1
Other offences n.e.c.	0	5	1	0	0
Total	457	497	481	484	475

Source: PROMIS as of 13 February 2025

*Knife or sharp instrument parameters are based on where the weapons checkbox is selected on the 'Offence Screen' in PROMIS.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:



By the Attorney-General, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

