



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**



Asked by Mrs Giulia Jones MLA on 26 June 2014: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [26 June 2014] [PAGE 20-21]]

In relation to: Inspections of licensed premises
(JACS #6)

Mr Corbell: So, in the last—so, from 1 July last year until current time the number of inspections undertaken by our liquor licensing inspectors—not the police, but our liquor licensing inspectors—of licensed premises is 1,020.

MRS JONES: You will get back to me on the police numbers?

Mr Corbell: Sorry, I do have some information now from the police. The number of proactive visits and inspections of licensed premises by the police for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 is 1,340.

MRS JONES: So a similar number and can you provide those numbers going back to the beginning of this new act that was put in place—was it 2009?

Mr Corbell: 2010.

MRS JONES: 2010.

Mr Corbell: Yes I am happy to take that question on notice.

MRS JONES: Thank you very much.

MS BERRY: Is that figure of the inspections by both of those—the police and the liquor licensing were they inspections as a result of an incident or just random inspections?

Mr Corbell: In relation to the liquor licensing figure, they are proactive inspections. In relation to the police in my understanding they are a mixture of both call-outs and proactive inspections.

MRS JONES: Okay. And when you give me that data can you break that down by proactive, versus regular?

Mr Corbell: If that is possible, yes.

Mr Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

OLARIS #: xx/XXXXX

The below table sets out the number of liquor inspections conducted by the Office of Regulatory Services as set out in previous years' Annual Reports. Statistically the Office of Regulatory Services does not distinguish between proactive and reactive inspections.

Year	Number of liquor inspections
2009-2010	Over 1,100 after hours inspections
2010-2011	1,459 (1,181 of these were after-hours in association with the ACT Policing Alcohol Crime Targeting Team)
2011-2012	1,224
2012-2013	1,101
2013-14 (YTD to May 2014)	1,020

In the corresponding period, ACT Policing became more involved in inspections of licensed premises. Coinciding with commencement of the new Act, significant changes in the licensing assessment process (such as the introduction of Risk Assessment Management Plans) required greater effort within the Fair Trading Compliance unit of the Office of Regulatory Services.

In relation to the breakdown of proactive and reactive inspection activity conducted by ACT Policing, the statistics for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 were reviewed on 1 July 2014 and the updated recorded inspections totalled 1422, broken down as follows;

Proactive Inspections	Number of Inspections
Walkthroughs (high visibility inspections engaging with patrons of licenced premises)	746
Education (includes specific education activity around legislative compliance)	10
Engagements (high visibility inspections engaging with licencees and staff in relation to general compliance)	399

Reactive Inspections	Number of Inspections
Enforcements (investigation of an alleged or perceived breach of liquor legislation)	86

ACT Policing have identified that 181 incidents were recorded as 'Others' which includes visits to premises where no patrons present or the premises is closed, interactions with external security staff but not entry or direct inspection of a premises and other miscellaneous interactions with licencees or licenced premises. In relation to the 'Others' category ACT Policing has implemented changes to the recording methodology which will ensure that future activities more accurately reflect the Proactive and Reactive Inspections tables above.

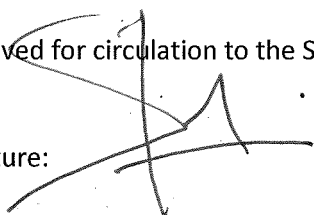
In relation to inspection figures since the commencement of the *Liquor Act 2010*, in the 2010-2011 financial year ACT Policing conducted 476 inspections, in the 2011-2012 financial year 782 inspections were conducted and in the 2012-13 financial year 518 inspections were conducted. These figures are not able to be easily broken down into proactive and reactive activities.

During the above 2012-13 reporting period, the strong push to visit every licensed premises in the ACT had decreased as the majority of licenced premises had been frequented by members of the Alcohol Crime Targeting Team. The focus moved towards the engagement and enforcement concepts with Licensees and patrons. By their very nature, and combined with a small education component, these interactions were more qualitative in context and required more time for each interaction.

There is a significant difference in the number of inspections between the 2011-12 and 2013-14 financial years. This is a direct result of the creation of the Regional Targeting Team (RTT) in September 2013. The RTT was formed when the Alcohol Crime Targeting Team and the City Beats amalgamated. This increased the number of staff to its current number of three Sergeants, 20 Constables and one Intelligence Officer. The RTT focusses on Alcohol Crime issues and in particular, reducing harm caused by attempt to reduce the harms caused by alcohol fuelled violence and alcohol abuse. ACT Policing do this by conducting high visibility patrols in and around licenced premises and interacting with both the licencees/staff and patrons.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



10.7.14

Date:

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

