



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **23 February 2022**

Asked by Mr Andrew Braddock MLA on 23 February 2022: Minister Gentleman took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

ACTF&R Building Inspections - 422 reported on page 94

MR BRADDOCK: I am just interested in the building inspections conducted by the Fire and Rescue, Community Safety Section. The annual report says there was 422 of those inspections done. How many of those came back with non-compliance or issues raised out of those and how were they resolved?

Ms Whelan: Thank you for the question. I will just ask our acting chief officer of Fire and Rescue to provide that information for you.

Mr Brewer: Yes, good afternoon, everyone. Glenn Brewer, acting chief officer, ACT Fire and Rescue, and I acknowledge the privilege statement also.

I, unfortunately, have to take that question on notice with regard to the answer to that one to make sure that I am giving you the correct information.

Minister Gentleman: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—


The vast majority of the 422 'inspections' in the 2020-21 financial year were conducted by the ACTF&R Fire Safety team as part of the building approvals system. Officers at these inspections often identify areas that need attention, however, these matters are addressed within the construction stage in cooperation with certifiers, builders, and developers. ACTF&R's involvement within the approvals system (as a referral entity under the Building Regulations 2008), promotes the best possible result in regard to fire safety compliance in the built environment, and minimises incidences of non-compliances requiring rectification once buildings are occupied.

Building inspections are conducted by ACTF&R within the Territory as a result of three different pathways, being:

- to investigate complaints;
- as part of the building approvals system; and
- by operational crews familiarising themselves with buildings within their station areas.

ACTF&R receive a relatively small number of complaints that require building inspections. Those that are forwarded usually apply to blocked exits and excessive storage of flammable material. Non-compliances such as these are generally quickly rectified by building owners/managers once notified of ACTF&R involvement.

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

Signature: 

Date: *19/5/2022*

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Mick Gentleman