



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Catherine Rule, Director-General, Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Ainslie community garden

Hearing: 21 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 24

Transcript provided: 27 February 2025

Answer Due: 6 March 2025 5:00PM

Catherine Rule took on notice the following question(s):

MR CAIN: So when did you become aware it was happening nonetheless, and what did you about it to stop that investment by our volunteer community?

Ms Rule: I think again, Ms Borwick has indicated that we may likely have become aware of it during the course of regular visits to the property, site inspections, those types of things. And we are not aware of any further correspondence between Housing ACT and the organisation leasing the property in relation to the garden.

MR CAIN: So do you have a record of those site visits for that particular property?

Ms Rule: We would have to take it on notice.

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

On 20 April 2021, The Salvation Army (TSA) submitted a Modification Request to Housing ACT to build some additional structures at 48 Foveaux Street Ainslie. Garden Plans were also attached to the request. On 9 June 2021, Housing ACT provided written advice to TSA advising that the Modification Request was declined, and works should not proceed. A further request was made to Housing ACT for site plan information to support a garden, where it was again reiterated modifications required consideration and approval.

From 2022 through to 2024, there were 12 requests which resulted in property attendance to address maintenance issues.

Housing ACT is not aware of any direct engagement by staff with volunteers.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

12/03/25