



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair)
Nicole Lawder MLA, Bec Cody MLA



Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2)

Answer to Question on Notice

The Committee asks ministers to provide Answers to Questions on Notice within 5 working days of ministers receiving the QoN, where Day One is the first working day after the hearing.

Question on Notice by Caroline Le Couteur to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

In connection with ACT Policing, considered in hearings of 4 March 2020:

Ref p 58

Enhanced forensic medical services [JACS]

1. Why is the funding for enhancing forensic medical services a one-off expenditure?
2. Will there be a need for ongoing funds to keep up with the demand?
3. Is there a backlog of people waiting for forensic medical assessments?
4. Is there a time frame within which forensic medical examinations must take place?
What is it?

Answer to Question on Notice (No 2) asked by Ms Caroline Le Couteur on 4 March 2020 is as follows:

1. In April 2018, ACT Policing entered into a new contract with ACT Health (being the only provider within the ACT) for provision of forensic medical services until April 2020. These services form a critical part of criminal and coronial investigations in providing medical evidence of assaults and injuries for victims of violent crimes and related services to death investigations.

Due to the demand for these services, the contract saw an increase of \$0.686m (2018-19), in both fixed and variable costs, based on ACT Health's cost for providing the service. The 2019-20 Budget Review provided \$0.715m in 2019-20 year to account for the contract's increased cost.
2. The current contract expires in April 2020.
3. There is no backlog of people waiting for a forensic medical assessment.
4. There is no set timeframe for a forensic medical examination to take place. If a police officer determines a forensic medical examination is required, a Clinical Forensic Medical Service and the on-call Forensic Medical Officer is contacted by ACT Policing. A forensic medical officer is then dispatched immediately to conduct the examination. Timeliness is imperative in this process, particularly when assessing victims' injuries, due to the need to capture them as close to the offence time as possible.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Ramsay', written in a cursive style.

Gordon Ramsay MLA

A/g Minister for Police and Emergency Services