



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS 3:15pm to 5:45pm

Asked by Mr Parton on **2 September 2022**: **Minister Berry, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development** took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript] **Hansard p 1270**

In relation to: Housing ACT property Shared Fences

Shared fences (taken from uncorrected proof):

MR PARTON: Look, I am happy to. Can we talk about shared fences? And I wonder, minister, or anyone else in the room, if you can explain the process that a private resident must go through when they share a fence with a Housing ACT property and they wish to upgrade that shared fence? What is that process, how long does it take, on average?

Ms Berry: Yes, we can provide some information on that and I would say, Mr Parton, it is often easier to deal with, as a private residence, with a public housing neighbour, than it is in a private home. So Mr Algnier. No, Ms Loft. No.

Ms Loft: Look, I am happy, you know, at 5.20 pm on a Friday afternoon, to talk about fences. Yes, Mr Parton, we—I am going to take that on notice and get for you, the detailed step by step procedure that happens. But there is an, as you can imagine, a collaboration that needs to be undertaken in terms of what type of fence, what type of fence does the private owner want to have installed, versus what we actually install standard to our properties.

Sometimes it can take some time, we do know that there are issues in just dealing with where there is a difference of opinion and sometimes we certainly have private owners who wish to do the upgrade themselves, but then, seek compensation back from public housing and sometimes that does become complex. But if I can take that on notice and get the detail for you, would be happy to do that.

That said, if there are specific examples, because I can—I know that this can be a difficult and complex process. Again, very happy to work through those.

MR PARTON: All right. Just in regards, taking that on notice, what I am looking for is how long does that process take on average? I would love to know how many requests for shared fence upgrades that you receive, and just how long the process takes once the fence is installed, how does the reimbursement take place and what is that process? And that is all I have got on that line, that is it.

Ms Loft: Yes, will do, will provide you with our fact sheets.

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

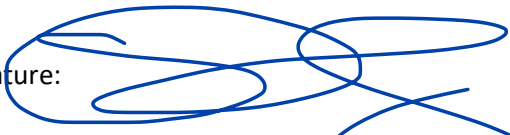
Please see [Attachment 1](#) for the process undertaken by Programmed Facilities Management, Housing ACT's Total Facilities Manager, in relation to the replacement of fences where the fence borders a Housing ACT property. Further information provided to private owners is at [Attachment 2](#). These attachments cover several elements of the question.

In relation to the timeframe to complete, due to the volume of requests and availability of contractors, there is currently a 6-month+ wait time. Programmed are analysing each request and prioritising.

For the 2021/22 financial year, 157 reimbursements for privately installed fences were processed.

Once a fence replacement has been completed and Programmed have been provided with all of the requested and necessary documentation (advised in the Attachments), reimbursement is processed into the private owners chosen bank account and usually takes up to 2 weeks to finalise.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:  Date: 12/9/22

By Minister Yvette Berry (Minister for Housing and Suburban Development)