



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Jo Clay MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
27 October 2021

Asked by Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA on 27 October 2021: Mr Mick Gentleman MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 October 2021 [PAGE 38]]

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Thanks for that. Obviously, you know, taking 110 officers, you know, off other tasks has those implications and if you cannot, sort of, give it to me now, can you, on notice, give me a breakdown of what matters you had to either suspend or cancel, or you know, in that diversion?

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

ACT Policing established a dedicated COVID-19 Taskforce in July 2020 to ensure a centralised, coordinated response to both business continuity and enforcement action within the community. At its height, approximately 110 staff were attached to the Taskforce, this included compliance teams, a 24-hour presence at ACT Health run quarantine facilities or hotels, administrative support, officers liaising with other Government bodies and a command structure.

To provide a COVID-19 response, operational members were required to be redirected from their day-to-day duties to assist with compliance duties and within the COVID-19 Taskforce.

Sworn members were redeployed from areas such Community Engagement Team, Education and Diversion Team, Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team, Territory Targeting Team, Criminal Investigations and General Duties.

The focus of ACT Policing's response to COVID-19 did require effective redirection of members however, this did not mean that priority investigations did not continue.

During the peak of COVID compliance activities, ACT Policing prioritised attendance at matters such as residential burglaries where there was a clear crime scene and officers were of the view that evidential material could be obtained.

As a result of the closure and restrictions of restaurants, night clubs, schools and public gatherings, the requirement for ACT Policing to undertake certain targeting, education and engagement with respect to these locations usually performed by the Territory Targeting Team, Community Engagement Team, and Education and Diversion Team was reduced. This provided an opportunity for ACT Policing to redirect these members to the COVID-19 Taskforce.

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

Signature: 

Date: 5/11/2021

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