



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Reference: ACT Policing - Legal System Resourcing

Hearing: 30/07/2025

In relation to: Legal system - whole of system modelling and analysis

Question received: 05/08/2025

Answer Due: 15/08/2025

What whole-of-system modelling has been done to assess the financial and resourcing impacts of increased police resourcing on courts, Legal Aid, and the DPP?

Thank you

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Increasing police numbers does not inherently or necessarily increase resourcing impacts on other parts of the justice system through an increase in prosecutions. The intent of an increase in police numbers is equally to prevent crime and reduce recidivism. Police are also serving the community in response to non-crime related matters.

By way of context, the ACT benefits from some of the lowest crime rates in the country. The number of offences reported to ACT Policing overall decreased by 2.9 per cent in the 2024-25 financial year (or 768 reported offences) when compared to the 2023-24 financial year.

ACT Policing is continuing to see decreases across many reportable offences.

- Property Damage decreased by 6.5 per cent to 3,169 in the 2024-25 financial year (down from 3,389 in 2023-24).
- Theft (excluding motor vehicles) decreased by 3.5 per cent to 6,808 offences in the 2024-25 financial year (down from 7,058 in 2023-24).
- Motor vehicle theft decreased by 12.2 per cent to 968 in the 2024-25 financial year (down from 1,102 in 2023-24).

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The Government continues to work with the various elements of the system, including the Courts, Legal Aid and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to understand and respond to the impacts that a change in demand on services has on resourcing.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature: 

Date: 15/09/2025

By the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA