



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Corrections

In relation to: Corrections and sources of found contraband

Hearing: 28/07/2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 9

Transcript provided: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 6 August 2026

Dr Marisa Paterson: took on notice the following question(s):

MR EMERSON: And just quickly, I know we are pretty much up on time, but in the last financial year, let us say, what proportion of contraband brought into the AMC was brought in by visitors, detainees and correctional staff?

Dr Paterson: Well we do not really know—yes, we can provide some data on this.

Ms Caitlin Tough MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) does not record contraband incidents in a manner that enables the proportion of contraband introduced by visitors, detainees and correctional staff to be accurately calculated for the 2025-26 financial year. Producing this information would require a manual review of a large volume of records and would involve an unreasonable diversion of ACTCS resources.

While ACTCS cannot provide exact proportions, available data provides some indication of identified contraband introduction attempts and detections in the first six months of 2026:

- ACTCS identified 32 attempts by visitors to introduce contraband during social visits*.
- ACTCS identified seven attempts to introduce contraband via the AMC perimeter fence line, involving eight packages. All packages were recovered by correctional officers.
- ACTCS identified two suspected drone-related contraband introduction attempts in the first half of 2026, both occurring in February 2026*.
- ACTCS has not identified any contraband introduction by correctional staff during the 2025-26 financial year.

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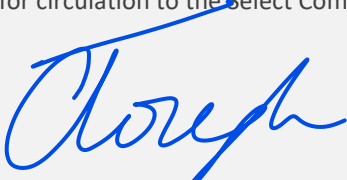
- ACTCS can advise that positive scans of newly admitted detainees accounted for approximately 40 per cent of all positive body scans conducted at the AMC**.

*ACTCS notes that these figures relate to identified attempts and detections and should not be interpreted as representing the total volume of contraband entering the AMC or as confirmed contraband incidents in every case. The figures also exclude instances where individuals were denied entry prior to entering the AMC, including as a result of positive K9 indications or during joint ACTCS and ACT Policing operations.

**ACTCS notes that body scanner detections represent anomalies identified through screening technology. These anomalies are indicative only and, as such, positive body scan results should not be interpreted as a direct measure of confirmed contraband entering the AMC.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



By the Minister for Corrections, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Date:

