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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015
Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Brendan Smyth MLA on 26 June 2014: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [26 June 2014] [PAGE 68]]

In relation to: Cases
(JACS #10)

Dr Alderson: Sorry, apologies, that number, the 104 and the 13, were more than 24. The more than 12, the numbers I have here, are 150 civil and 24 criminal. I should say that included within those numbers is a proportion which, regardless of whatever systems or processes the court has in place, there are reasons why a matter is adjourned at a request of the parties or what have you. So there will always be a certain number that will be in that longer bracket on any assessment.

THE CHAIR: So how many of those are in cases that have been adjourned, rather than cases at which the hearings have finished?

Dr Alderson: Sorry, I do not have that statistic, Mr Smyth.

THE CHAIR: Could we get that breakdown, please?

Dr Alderson: I can see whether we are able to.

THE CHAIR: Minister, is it acceptable to have 104 civil cases and 13 criminal cases waiting longer than 24 months for a judgment?

Mr Corbell: Any delay is regrettable and unacceptable, and the court is undertaking a significant body of work to address those matters.

THE CHAIR: All right. In the criminal cases, could we also know whether the defendant has been on remand at the AMC while these determinations are being waited upon?

Mr Corbell: We can certainly, yes, take that question on notice.

Mr Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

In relation to the question on adjournments, data on the number of adjournments is unavailable.

In relation to the Supreme Court criminal jurisdiction, for matters pending that are greater than 24 months, the following information is provided:-

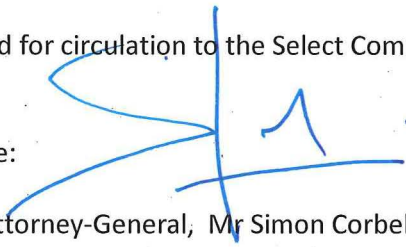
- As at May 2014 there were 13 matters pending. This figure has reduced to 11 matters as at 30 June 2014.
- Of the 11 matters, six defendants are remanded in custody at the Alexander Maconachie Centre (AMC).

Even though the matter may have been pending for longer than 24 months, there is no correlation between the amount of time the matter is pending and the actual amount of time a person has been remanded in custody.

For example, of the defendants remanded, four were remanded in custody in 2014, one in December 2013 and one in 2012. The defendant remanded in 2012 is a detainee sentenced on other matters.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



Date: 7.7.14

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA