

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 12

24 October 2025

Question No. 704

Ms Deborah Morris MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections –

In relation to the answer to question taken on notice No 132 of the Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026 referring to incidents occurring in November 2022 and May 2025 where detainees were present in areas with visitors or contractors in circumstances not permitted under Alexander Machonochie Centre (AMC) procedures, can the Minister provide (a) a description of each incident, including the date, location in the Alexander Machonochie Centre (AMC), and circumstances, (b) how the detainees came to be present in the restricted area for each incident, and what immediate actions were taken to ensure the safety of the visitor or contractor, (c) what reviews or investigations were undertaken following each incident, and what findings were made and (d) what changes, if any, have been implemented since these incidents to prevent a recurrence.

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) notes that the Question Taken on Notice No.132 inquired about any incidents where visitors or contractors were placed in a dangerous situation. The two additional incidents of November 2022 and May 2025 referred to in the response to Question Taken on Notice No. 132 did not involve situations where detainees were present in areas with visitors or contractors in circumstances not permitted under Alexander Machonochie Centre (AMC) procedures.

These two incidents involved instances where there was potential for harm or where harm was reported in relation to contractors and visitors more broadly, and not as the result of the unauthorised presence of detainees, as recorded on Work Health and Safety reporting systems.

Noting this, please see below summary of these incidents:

November 2022

- a) Hot water was thrown onto a volunteer facilitating a program on 6 November 2022.
- b) This incident occurred during a program session. Following notification of the incident, staff removed detainees from the location and supported the volunteer in receiving immediate medical assistance.
- c) Debriefs were conducted with both unit staff and management, and the detainee involved was managed in accordance with the *Detainee Discipline Policy*.
- d) All contractors, educators and program facilitators must complete Security Awareness Training prior to attending the AMC and must declare any conflicts of interest with detained individuals.

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May 2025

- a) A visitor became stuck between the doors and wall of the roto-turn machine in visits reception.
- b) The visitor was immediately assisted by staff and released from the area.
- c) A Worksafe investigation was undertaken on the roto-turn machine following this incident resulting in modification to the machine.
- d) Changes were made following the incident to eliminate the gap (by removal of a rear support pole) which led to the visitor becoming stuck and additional safety signage was installed to prevent similar incidents.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Corrections

Date: 19/11/25

This response required 2hrs 10mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$218.64