

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 9

5 September 2025

Question No. 595

Mr Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Attorney-General —

1. How many lawsuits has the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) been involved in since 2018.
2. How many lawsuits has JACS lost since 2018.
3. What has been the total cost on external lawyers spent since 2018 on the lawsuits referred to in parts (1) and (2).
4. What has been the total cost of internal staff spent since 2018 on the lawsuits referred to in parts (1) and (2).

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. To respond to the Member's question a lawsuit is defined as a litigation matter where legal proceedings against or involving the Territory represented by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (excluding Statutory Officer Holders in the JACS portfolio and the Courts and Tribunal) has commenced since 2018. This does not include inquests and inquiries.

There have been 233 litigation matters opened since 2018 involving the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. These matters related to the following categories of litigation.

Commercial	Personal Injury Claims (Public Liability and Medical Negligence)
Employment and Industrial Relations	Discrimination/Human Rights
Other Claims by/against the ACT	Property Damage Claims against the ACT
Public Law	

2. The response to legal proceedings commenced against the Territory aims to achieve a fair and just outcome having regard to the legal, factual and evidentiary circumstances of any case. This

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may be accompanied by a settlement met by the ACT Insurance Authority or other arrangements. In the resolution of legal proceedings or disputes the use of pejorative terms such as “win” or “lose” is not useful and does not reflect an outcome of litigation consistent with model litigant principles or pursuant to the *Law Officers Legal Services Directions 2023*.

3. A manual interrogation of data would be required to determine the total expenditure on Counsel since 2018 in relation to the 233 litigation matters and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
4. The legal services provided by the ACTGS are provided through controlled recurrent payment (appropriation) for Output 1.2 Legal Services to Government and to identify the resources expended for the identified matters would require a manual search of the records for each matter which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. There would also be administrative cost associated with JACS instructing the ACTGS in respect of the litigation matters, however, these costs would be difficult to quantify.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
A/g Attorney-General**

Date: 08/10/2025

This response required 4hrs 30mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$923.40.