

## **Response to question on notice**

### **Questions on Notice Paper No 9**

**5 September 2025**

**Question No. 578**

**Ms Chiaka Barry MLA:** To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services —

1. Is the abuse shown on video in relation to a recent incident of an Aboriginal young man being taunted in an ACT Police station about self-harm and being a foster child consistent with the ACT Police code of conduct.
2. What disciplinary action has been taken against the officer making the comments in the video referred to in part (1).
3. What disciplinary action has been taken against the other officers in the background of the video referred to in part (1).
4. What actions have been taken by the Commissioner of Police since the incident referred to in part (1) to make it clear to all police that such conduct is unacceptable.
5. What actions have been taken by the Minister to make it clear to the Commissioner that such conduct as referred to in part (1) is unacceptable.
6. What compensation has or will be offered to the victim of the incident referred to in part (1).
7. How many complaints have been made about the conduct of ACT Police officers over each of the last five years.
8. How many ACT Police Officers have been the subject of disciplinary action for inappropriate comments to offenders over each of the last five years.
9. How many compensation payments have been made in relation to the conduct of ACT Police officers over each of the last five years.



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

1. The footage of and comments by an ACT Policing officer during an intake incident that took place at the ACT Watch House in 2024 are not consistent with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Code of Conduct. The Chief Police Officer for the ACT and I hold everyone in ACT Policing to high standards of professionalism and integrity, consistent with community and government expectations.
2. ACT Policing advise that the AFP Professional Standards investigation into this matter remains ongoing.

Complaint information, such as sanctions and findings are subject to the secrecy provisions outlined in the AFP Act and Australian privacy law and as such, limited details are made public. However, where any member involved is found to have breached the AFP Code of Conduct, appropriate sanctions are applied.

I would like to reassure the ACT community that when it is confirmed an officer has not met the AFP's high standards, then appropriate sanctions are available, from formal counselling through to demotion, termination and criminal charges.

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4. Following the intake incident that took place at the ACT Watch House in 2024, the Chief Police Officer for the ACT, Deputy Commissioner Scott Lee (CPO) released a public statement acknowledging media reporting and impacts it was likely to have on the community.

In his statement, CPO reassured the community that ACT Policing is committed to serving the Canberra community and that all allegations of misconduct against members of ACT Policing are taken extremely seriously and appropriately investigated.

5. I will not comment on individual matters or complaints pertaining to ACT Policing. As the AFP Professional Standards investigation into this matter remains ongoing, and it would be inappropriate for me to make comment at this time.

I am confident that the significant scrutiny policing is subject to, which is much higher than for many other professions, remains adequate to ensure police are accountable for their actions.

6. The circumstances of the incident remain subject of ongoing litigation, and therefore it is not appropriate for me to comment on the specifics of any compensation that might be provided in the future. However, I confirm that ACT Policing's legal representatives are engaging with the individual's legal representatives as part of the litigation and will ensure the matter is dealt with appropriately in accordance with model litigant obligations and the *Legal Services Directions 2017*.

7. The below table shows the number of complaints relating to ACT Policing received by the AFP Professional Standards and the Workplace Issues and Complaint Resolution Team for the last five years.



FINANCIAL YEAR	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
2024-25	107
2023-24	93
2022-23	64
2021-22	71
2020-21	83

8. AFP conduct complaints systems do not capture the level of detail posed in this question, including differentiating between a 'complainant' and whether or not the complainant is also an alleged 'offender'. A manual interrogation would require a significant diversion of ACT Policing and AFP resources to draw down the requested dataset from the relevant systems and databases and would not be likely to yield an accurate result.
9. Please find below a table for the past five years providing the number of instances in which compensation payments have been made in relation to actions by ACT Policing officers:

YEAR	NUMBER OF COMPENSATION PAYOUTS
2021	5
2022	4
2023	6
2024	11
2025 (1-JAN-25 to 3-OCT-25)	10

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

*M. Paterson*

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

Date: 21/10/25

This response required 5 hrs to complete, at an approximate cost of \$378.87.

