

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 15

06 February 2026

Question No. 853

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services -

1. How many roadside drug tests were undertaken in each year for the last three years, broken into (a) the type of drug tested for, (b) the type of drug detected and (c) in how many tests were no drugs detected.
2. What devices do ACT Policing use to detect drivers with drugs in their systems, including (a) what drugs and (b) to what degree of specificity, that is, a negative or positive result only, or by amount, do each of the devices detect.

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

1. (a) For the below 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial year results, the roadside testing kits tested for methylamphetamine, MDMA, and THC.

The 2024-25 roadside testing kits included methylamphetamine, MDMA, THC; and from 1 January 2025 the roadside testing kits were expanded to also include cocaine.

Each roadside test screens for the presence of all the drugs listed above (i.e. there are not separate tests undertaken for each illicit substance type).

Year	(b) Roadside drug tests undertaken	(c) Tests where nil drugs were detected *
2024-25	3,767	3,436
2023-24	2,416	2,181
2022-23	2,059	1,724

**The number of negative drug tests has been calculated by subtracting the total number of drug driving charges from the total number of administered drug tests.*

2. ACT Policing uses oral-fluid (saliva) drug screening devices at the roadside, supported by laboratory confirmatory testing. In August 2024, an amendment was made to facilitate ACT Policing's use of the Securetec DrugWipe 3S.

(a) This amendment commenced on 1 January 2025 and allowed for the expansion of roadside drug testing to include cocaine alongside other illicit drugs including Methylamphetamine, MDMA and THC (cannabis)

(b) Securetec DrugWipe 3S screens a driver's oral fluid (saliva) for the presence of specific illicit drugs. These kits are screening tools only, they indicate whether certain drugs are present, not the level of impairment.

If a roadside screen is positive, a secondary confirmatory test is undertaken. Oral fluid samples are analysed by the ACT Government Analytical Laboratory (ACTGAL) to confirm the presence of drugs for evidentiary purposes.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

M. Paterson

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

5/3/26

Date:

This response required 2hrs 40mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$245.61.