

Tara Cheyne MLA

Manager of Government Business

Attorney-General

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for City and Government Services

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 6****Friday, 9 May 2025****Question No. 418****MS CLAY:** To ask the Minister for City and Government Services —

1. Given that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has advised that they will no longer take on referrals of regulatory matters from other Government agencies, how will this affect prosecutions for animal cruelty offences.
2. Has the Minister discussed the issue of animal cruelty prosecutions with the DPP; if so, what was the outcome of those discussions.
3. What alternative pathways are there for stakeholders and the community to enforce laws about animal cruelty.
4. What should someone do if they are concerned about a particular animal cruelty matter, and what are the enforcement options with those pathways.
5. How many prosecutions were commenced for animal cruelty, each year for the last ten years, or for whatever recent annual data set the Minister has to hand.
6. How many complaints were received about animal cruelty each year for the last ten years, or for whatever recent annual data set the Minister has to hand that is comparable to the figures referred to in part (5).

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA – The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:

1. The ACT Government is committed to ensuring efficient and effective enforcement of regulatory matters in the ACT. The ACT Government will continue to enforce regulatory matters. As I stated during Question Time on 7 May 2025, there will be no matters not subject to prosecution as a result of changes to how regulatory matters will be enforced in court.
2. I met with the DPP earlier this year to discuss the best use of their resources and the heavy workload of regulatory matters on the DPP. This included but was not specific to animal cruelty prosecutions.
3. Members of the Canberra community should proceed as normal and report relevant matters through the RSPCA or Domestic Animal Services.



4. As above.
5. This information can be found in the relevant Annual Reports.
6. As above.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA

Minister for City and Government Services

Date:

26/5/25

This response required 1 hr and 5 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$113.19