

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 11

26 September 2025

Question No. 682

DEBORAH MORRIS MLA: To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services —

1. How many Random Breath Tests (RBTs) were conducted, broken down by patrol zone, in the (a) 2020-2021, (b) 2021-2022, (c) 2022-2023, (d) 2023-2024, (e) 2024-2025 and (f) current reporting period to date.
2. In each of the reporting periods referred to in part (1), how many drivers were charged with (a) driving under the influence of alcohol and (b) driving under the influence of drugs.
3. What drugs are currently able to be tested for by ACT Policing at a standard RBT, or roadside test.
4. What powers do ACT Policing officers have where they suspect a driver is impaired by a substance not detectable through existing roadside testing methods.

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

1. Please see below tables relating to the number of random breath tests (RBT) and random drug tests (RDT) conducted by ACT Policing, ACT-wide, in the relevant periods.

NUMBER OF RBT'S CONDUCTED					
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
39,034	13,844	55,079	69,344	101,551	21,520

Source: PROMIS as at 01 Oct 2025

* 01 July 2025 to 30 September 2025

NUMBERS OF RDT'S CONDUCTED					
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
2041	1763	2059	2416	3767	802

Source: PROMIS as at 01 Oct 2025

* 01 July 2025 to 30 September 2025

Caveat – ACT Policing is unable to provide a breakdown of the data by patrol zone as the required level of location data for this type of testing is not currently mapped.

2. Please see below tables relating to the number of drivers charged with driving under the influence (alcohol and drugs) conducted in the relevant periods.

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NUMBER OF UNIQUE APPREHENSIONS CONTAINING A DRINK DRIVING CHARGE					
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
926	734	829	673	631	134

Source: PROMIS as at 01 Oct 2025

* 01 July 2025 to 30 September 2025

NUMBER OF UNIQUE APPREHENSIONS CONTAINING A DRUG DRIVING CHARGE					
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
779	390	336	236	335	188

Source: PROMIS as at 01 Oct 2025

* 01 July 2025 to 30 September 2025

3. ACT Road Transport legislation sets out that ACT Policing officers can undertake screening and analysis of a road users' breath, oral fluid and/or blood for the detection of alcohol and drugs. Under Section 5A of the *Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Regulation 2000*, ACT Policing officers can test for the following Prescribed Drugs:

- delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol;
- methylamphetamine;
- N, α -Dimethyl-3,4-(Methylenedioxy) phenylethylamine;
- cocaine.

4. ACT Policing officers possess specific powers when they suspect that a driver is impaired by a substance that cannot be identified through standard roadside testing methods. In situations where an officer suspects that a person is impaired in this manner, they may rely on legislative provisions beyond the available detection technologies.

Under Section 16 of the *Road Transport (Alcohol & Drugs) Act 1977*, ACT Policing officers are empowered to act if they suspect that a relevant person is committing an offence under Section 24, which pertains to driving under the influence. This authority also extends to suspected offences of culpable driving.

These powers enable officers to intervene and take appropriate action even if the suspected substance cannot be detected through breath, oral fluid, or blood screening conducted at the roadside.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



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

Date: 29/10/25

This response required 6hrs 20mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$506.08.