



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 237

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Attorney-General, Hon Marie-Clare Boothby MLA:

Sentencing and Bail Reforms Evidence Base

1. What specific evidence, research, modelling or departmental analysis did the Government rely on in developing its mandatory sentencing and bail legislation to demonstrate the changes would reduce reoffending or crime?
 - a. Was a regulatory impact statement prepared?
 - b. Was a cost-benefit analysis undertaken?
 - c. Did the Department model the impact on prisoner numbers?
 - d. Did the Department model the impact on reoffending rates?
2. Can that evidence be tabled?
3. If no such evidence or modelling exists, on what basis did the Government conclude these measures would achieve their stated objectives?
4. What performance measures has the Department established to evaluate whether the legislative changes are succeeding, and over what timeframe will that evaluation occur?
 - a. Against what baseline will each measure be assessed?
5. In each of 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26, what proportion of criminal matters was resolved by guilty plea, and what proportion proceeded to trial?
 - a. Please provide separately for the Local Court and the Supreme Court.
 - b. If that proportion is not compiled, in which system is the plea entered in each matter recorded?

6. Does the Government accept that where there is little sentencing benefit for an early guilty plea, proceeding to trial may become the rational option for some accused persons?
7. In each of 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26, how many Supreme Court criminal matters were listed for trial, how many proceeded to trial, and what was the average trial duration in sitting days?
 - a. What was the total expenditure on higher courts criminal trials in each of those years?
 - b. If a per-matter cost is not calculated, what is the average cost of a Supreme Court sitting day?
8. What assessment has the Government made of the impact of longer criminal proceedings on victims, witnesses and families awaiting resolution?
 - a. Has the Government considered reforms that would encourage earlier resolution of matters while maintaining public confidence in sentencing outcomes?