



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 48

## WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Police, Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA:

### Police Custody Centres

1. What was the average daily number of people committed or remanded to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections (**Prisoners**) who were detained in police custody centres in:
  - a. September 2024;
  - b. October 2024; and
  - c. November 2024
  
2. What was the average daily number of people detained in police custody centres in:
  - a. September 2024;
  - b. October 2024; and
  - c. November 2024.
  
3. What is the maximum number of persons that should be detained at the following police custody centres in accordance with relevant fire regulations, industrial instruments and OHS instruments:
  - a. The Police, Fire and Emergency Services College Watch House, 814 McMillans Road, Berrimah NT 0828;
  - b. Palmerston Police Station, 2 Kettle Street, Farrar NT 0830;
  - c. The Alice Springs Watchhouse, Parsons Street, Alice Springs;
  - d. The police cells at the Northern Territory Police Headquarters, Mitchell Centre, Mitchell Street, Darwin;
  - e. Any other police custody centre?

4. What is the maximum number of persons that have been detained each police custody centre listed in question 3(a) – (e) since 1 September 2024?
5. Are there any current official visitors appointed under s 26 or s 212 of the *Correctional Services Act 2014*?
  - a. If so, have official visitors been provided with any opportunities to visit a police custody centre?
  - b. If not, why have no official visitors been appointed? What steps have been taken to appoint official visitors?
6. When was the last time each police custody centre listed in question 3(a) – (e) was visited by:
  - a. An official visitor appointed under s 26 or s 212 of the *Correctional Services Act 2014*;
  - b. A member of the office of the NT Ombudsman; and
  - c. A member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the Committee against Torture (**SPT**).
7. If applicable, what findings or recommendations have been made by an official visitor, the NT Ombudsman or his delegates or a member of the SPT in relation to investigations at a police custody centre since 1 December 2022?
8. On average, how many consecutive days are Prisoners being held in a police custody centre before being moved to another custodial correctional facility or another place?
9. What is the longest amount of time a male Prisoner has been held in a police custody centre before being moved to another custodial correctional facility or another place since 1 December 2022?

10. What is the longest amount of time a female Prisoner has been held in a police custody centre before being moved to another custodial correctional facility or another place since 1 December 2022?
  
11. What steps have been taken to ensure that the conditions for Prisoners in police custody centres comply with the *Correctional Services Act 2014* and reg 23 of the *Correctional Services Regulations 2014*, the Minimum Standard Guidelines for Australian Prisons and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture?
  
12. For each of the police custody centres listed in question 3(a) to (e):
  - a. Are all Prisoners being provided time outside their cell each day? If not, how frequently are Prisoners being provided time outside their cell;  
For how many hours each day, on average, is each Prisoner provided time outside their cell.
  - b. Are all Prisoners being provided access to direct sunlight and fresh air each day? If not, how frequently are Prisoners being provided access to direct sunlight and fresh air
  - c. Are all Prisoners being provided with access to adequate temperature control, including air-conditioning, in their cells;
  - d. For how many hours each day do the cells remain artificially lighted;
  - e. For how many hours each day are the cells air-conditioned;
  - f. Are all Prisoners being provided access to prescription medication;
  - g. Are all female Prisoners being provided access to feminine hygiene products
  - h. Are all Prisoners being provided with access to daily showers and private use of hygiene facilities? If not, why not;
  - i. Are all Prisoners being provided with the ability to make priority calls and calls to their legal representatives;
  - j. Are all Prisoners being provided with the ability to make calls to and receive visits from family members;

- k. What steps have been taken to ensure that persons under the age of 18 are not being detained in cells adjacent to, and within sight and/or earshot of cells detaining adults;
  - l. What steps have been taken to ensure that females are not being detained in cells adjacent to, and within sight and/or earshot of cells detaining males;
  - m. What privileges in Schedule 2 to the *Correctional Services Regulations 2014* are Prisoners being provided with access to?
13. What is the effect on a Prisoner's accrued entitlements when they are moved from a Corrections facility to a police custody centre?
14. Has the Commissioner of Correctional Services (**Commissioner**) issued Directions to guide the determination as to whether a Prisoner is to be held in a police custody centre? If not, on what basis does the Commissioner (or any other person with the appropriate authority) make this decision?
15. In the exercise of a general discretion under section 38 of the *Correctional Services Act 2014*, does the Commissioner or his delegate consult with or seek submissions from a prisoner, and/or their family, legal representative or support services, and take into consideration any such consultations or submissions and the best interests of the prisoner and their rehabilitation before determining a prisoner should be relocated from one custodial correctional facility to another?