

**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA**

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Mr Thomas Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Our ref: PRO25/1554

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 8 April 2025 regarding petitions E-PET 046-24 and PET 016-25, lodged by Mr Peter Cain MLA, and received by the Assembly on 8 April 2025. The petition requests the Assembly to call on the Government to increase police presence in the suburbs of Hawker, Page and Scullin to protect the residents from petty and preventable crimes.

Pursuant to Standing Order 100, this letter constitutes my response.

### Community Engagement

ACT Policing is aware of the rise in community concern about crime affecting West Belconnen and routinely conducts policing patrols in all Belconnen suburbs. ACT Policing is working with areas of ACT Government, including ACT Housing and other support services, to identify issues of concern and respond appropriately.

To address concerns in the Belconnen region, ACT Policing has implemented the North District Community Engagement Strategy, which involves proactive high visibility patrolling, commercial and community engagement, resourcing, intelligence and data analytics.

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Education and public messaging are important components of crime prevention, community safety and enhancing confidence in police. ACT Policing is committed to raising awareness of community safety through active engagement with the entire community and the delivery of effective safety messaging.

ACT Policing has been steadily increasing its community engagement activities. Over the past year, officers have attended and hosted numerous events in local Canberra shopping centres and cafes, engaging face-to-face and reinforcing ACT Policing's strong relationships with the Canberra community.

In July 2024, ACT Policing attended Kaleen Plaza and hosted Cop Pop-Up. Cop Pop-Up is a community engagement initiative that enables community members to meet some of their local police officers and ask any questions they might have about policing, community safety and crime prevention. ACT Policing will continue to host these events across the ACT in 2025 and can confirm Hawker, Page and Scullin are being considered to host the next Belconnen district event.

Alongside these initiatives, ACT Policing received more than 140 requests in 2024 to attend community events in a public engagement capacity. ACT Policing continues to facilitate officer attendance at these events as operational priorities allow, further demonstrating its commitment to strengthening relationships with the community.

ACT Policing works with its partner support agencies to identify and strategise how best to collaboratively address the social issues that often underpin anti-social behaviour before it becomes a recurring issue.

### Crime Statistics

As at 30 April 2025, Hawker and Page are trending downwards overall in the rates of total offences being committed per 1,000 people so far in 2024-25. In Hawker, there were a total of 96.4 offences per 1,000 people in 2023-24, and 84.5 offences in 2024-25. In Page, total offences went from 42.1 offences per 1,000 people to 33.8 offences.

The rates of theft (22.8 to 18.1 per 1,000 people,) and assault (10.6 to 9.2 per 1,000 people,) in Hawker have also decreased since 2020.

The suburb of Scullin, however, has seen a small increase in the rate of total offences committed in the same time period, from 30.5 offences per 1,000 people to 39.7 offences. Scullin has seen a higher rate of crimes committed for offence types including property damage, assault, motor vehicle theft and burglary since 2023-24. However, the crime rates in Scullin remain low and remain lower than they were 5 years ago. Additionally, given the low crime rates, and small sample size, it is unclear whether the small increase from 2023-24 is statistically significant at this stage.



**FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF THE CRIME RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE IN HAWKER  
BETWEEN 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AS AT 30 APRIL 2025**

Offence	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
Assault	10.6	8.4	10.0	10.7	9.2
Sexual offences	2.3	1.7	0.7	0.3	2.4
Other offences against the person	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.4
Robbery	1.3	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.0
Burglary	5.6	5.3	5.7	4.7	5.2
Stolen Motor vehicle	5.0	4.7	3.7	3.4	3.2
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	22.8	19.0	24.1	22.8	18.1
Property damage	11.9	9.0	10.7	14.1	12.5
Other offences against property	4.0	6.7	13.7	4.0	4.4
Justice procedures	8.6	8.0	8.0	5.7	8.0
Firearms and weapons	1.7	0.7	0.3	1.0	1.2
Other offences against good order	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.7	1.2
Drug offences	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Traffic Offences	39.0	40.6	14.7	13.7	18.5
Total	119.6	116.2	80.8	96.4	84.4

Source: PROMIS as at 9 May 2025

\*Crime rates for 2024-25 are based on data between 1 July 2024 – 30 April 2025 and have been provided on a pro-rata basis. Due to this, caution should be taken when comparing 2024-25 crime rates with previous years

**FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF THE CRIME RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE IN PAGE  
BETWEEN 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AS AT 30 APRIL 2025**

Offence	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
Assault	7.1	3.3	6.7	3.0	4.4
Sexual offences	0.3	1.7	2.7	2.3	1.6
Other offences against the person	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.8
Robbery	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burglary	4.5	3.3	3.7	4.6	2.0

Stolen Motor vehicle	1.3	1.3	2.7	3.6	3.2
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	11.6	9.3	8.7	7.3	6.0
Property damage	11.3	5.6	9.1	6.3	2.8
Other offences against property	1.3	1.7	5.7	2.0	4.0
Justice procedures	4.8	1.0	2.0	5.0	3.2
Firearms and weapons	1.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0
Other offences against good order	1.3	2.0	1.3	2.3	0.8
Drug offences	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Traffic Offences	13.9	5.6	5.7	5.0	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>33.8</b>

Source: PROMIS as at 9 May 2025

\*Crime rates for 2024-25 are based on data between 01 July 2024 – 30 April 2025 and have been provided on a pro-rata basis. Due to this, caution should be taken when comparing 2024-25 crime rates with previous years.

**FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF THE CRIME RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE IN SCULLIN  
BETWEEN 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AS AT 30 APRIL 2025**

Offence	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
Assault	5.6	4.3	2.6	6.8	7.9
Sexual offences	5.6	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.8
Other offences against the person	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.8
Robbery	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0
Burglary	2.6	1.3	5.2	2.3	3.6
Stolen Motor vehicle	2.3	2.0	2.3	1.6	2.8
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	6.6	5.9	7.5	6.8	6.7
Property damage	4.3	6.2	3.6	4.2	5.5
Other offences against property	2.3	3.6	2.6	2.3	1.2
Justice procedures	2.3	3.0	2.6	0.3	3.9
Firearms and weapons	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4
Other offences against good order	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.6	1.2
Drug offences	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Traffic Offences	15.2	7.2	1.3	4.5	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>38.7</b>



Source: PROMIS as at 9 May 2025

\*Crime rates for 2024-25 are based on data between 01 July 2024 – 30 April 2025 and have been provided on a pro-rata basis. Due to this, caution should be taken when comparing 2024-25 crime rates with previous years

- The following tables outline data on the type of offences committed in these suburbs, over the last five years.

**OFFENCES COMMITTED IN HAWKER BETWEEN 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AS AT 30 APRIL**

Offence	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 YTD
Assault	32	25	30	32	23
Sexual offences	7	5	2	1	6
Other offences against the person	3	3	4	3	1
Robbery	4	3	4	2	0
Burglary	17	16	17	14	13
Stolen Motor vehicle	15	14	11	10	8
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	69	57	72	68	45
Property damage	36	27	32	42	31
Other offences against property	12	20	41	12	11
Justice procedures	26	24	24	17	20
Firearms and weapons	2	1	3	3	3
Other offences against good order	6	3	5	9	3
Drug offences	0	0	2	2	0
Traffic Offences	123	44	41	42	46
Total	352	242	288	257	210

Source: PROMIS as at 9 May 2025

**OFFENCES COMMITTED IN PAGE BETWEEN 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AS AT 30 APRIL**

Offence	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 YTD
Homicide	3	0	0	0	0
Assault	22	10	20	9	11
Sexual offences	1	5	8	7	4
Other offences against the person	2	0	2	0	2
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0
Burglary	14	10	11	14	5

Stolen Motor vehicle	4	4	8	11	8
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	36	28	26	22	15
Property damage	35	17	27	19	7
Other offences against property	4	5	17	6	10
Justice procedures	15	3	6	15	8
Firearms and weapons	3	0	2	2	0
Other offences against good order	4	6	4	7	2
Drug offences	2	1	1	0	0
Traffic Offences	43	17	17	15	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>84</b>

Source: PROMIS as at 9 May 2025

OFFENCES COMMITTED IN SCULLIN BETWEEN 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AS AT 30 APRIL					
Offence	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 YTD
Assault	17	13	8	21	20
Sexual offences	17	1	1	0	2
Other offences against the person	5	1	1	2	2
Robbery	1	0	2	1	0
Burglary	8	4	16	7	9
Stolen Motor vehicle	7	6	7	5	7
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	20	18	23	21	17
Property damage	13	19	11	13	14
Other offences against property	7	11	8	7	3
Justice procedures	7	9	8	1	10
Firearms and weapons	0	1	0	0	1
Other offences against good order	1	1	0	2	3
Drug offences	1	0	0	0	0
Traffic Offences	46	22	4	14	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>98</b>

Source: PROMIS as at 9 May 2025



### Resources and ACT Policing response

The suburbs of Hawker, Page and Scullin are included in the Belconnen Patrol Zone which is serviced by ACT Policing officers from a broad range of areas including (but not limited to) General Duties, Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team, Road Policing, the Family and Domestic Violence Unit and Criminal Investigations.

ACT Policing Officers-in-Charge of all stations, encourage their members to proactively patrol suburbs within their area of responsibility where possible on their shifts, to establish and strengthen relationships with business owners and the community. All ACT Policing Station Officers in Charge engage with business owners and operators as opportunities arise, to raise awareness about burglaries and other criminal conduct, and when requested, provide education on how to protect and secure businesses from criminality. ACT Policing regularly promotes home and safety tips via its website, social media channels and when speaking to the media on related issues or investigations. The SafeHome Program funded by the ACT Government provides workshops on strategies for improving home security, and is funded to assist homes vulnerable to property crime to implement these strategies.

ACT Policing's leadership team at Belconnen Police Station has been highly vigilant with engagement in West Belconnen. ACT Policing's Officer in Charge of Belconnen Police Station has indicated that officers are keen to continue building relationships with business owners and residents in suburbs such as Hawker, Page and Scullin.

It is important to note that ACT Policing continues to operate on a priority response basis. All reports to police are prioritised in accordance with dispatch protocols meaning those incidents where people are in emergency or life threatening are prioritised higher, with a faster response time in those matters. ACT Policing has a flexible workforce and can rapidly redirect resources to priority matters as required. For example, ACT Policing ensured a visible presence at shopping centres and town precincts in the wake of the Bondi shopping centre incident.

ACT Policing's Intelligence Team analyses a variety of information sources to identify patterns, convergences, and advises on prioritisation to maximise crime reduction opportunities and increase community safety. Target areas for patrolling are based on intelligence, which draws on a number of sources including community involvement and engagement directly with ACT Policing.

ACT Policing's response time and resourcing are based on all other operational priorities occurring at the time. Additionally, ACT Policing prioritises its responses to life threatening emergencies first, followed by incidents where there is an immediate threat to a person or property. Canberra's condensed geographical nature does, however, mean that officers can



move across the territory in a timely manner, with police regularly undertaking duties in different patrol zones as required.

In June 2023, the ACT Government committed to enhance community safety by investing more than \$107 million in recruiting additional 126 ACT Policing personnel over a five-year period. This was the largest single staffing and funding boost ever received by ACT Policing. All areas of ACT Policing saw an increase in numbers.

### Reporting

ACT Policing encourages the community to utilise the various reporting avenues available when requiring police assistance.

The public is encouraged to call 131 444 to report any illegal or anti-social activity as the incident is occurring to allow police the opportunity to direct the best and most appropriate resource to respond.

Another option is to submit a report via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via the website on [www.crimestoppersact.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersact.com.au). Reports can be provided anonymously via Crime Stoppers. This avenue is best used to build intelligence on a person/s of interest, or safety concern for a community so police can proactively provide a presence in the area and target the problematic behaviour. CCTV and dash cam footage can also be submitted via this Crime Stoppers.

ACT Policing has implemented online reporting to supplement current reporting methods and have expanded their online portal to include the reporting of theft and lost property since May 2025, alongside property damage, vandalism and dangerous driving.

This expanded capability will now allow incidents such as retail theft (e.g. theft of clothes or alcohol from a retail outlet) and personal theft (e.g. theft of tools from the tray of a vehicle or a bike theft) to be reported to ACT Policing via its website. Lost property such as mobile phones or wallets can now also be reported online.

The portal provides convenience for the community while also allowing ACT Policing to better respond to incidents where immediate police assistance is required.

I trust this information provides the petitioners with assurance that their concerns are understood, have been acknowledged by the ACT Government and efforts are being made by Government and ACT Policing to address these issues.

Yours sincerely



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