

## Question on Notice

No. 1436

Asked on 15 November 2023

**MR T NICHOLLS** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

### QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General provide the average penalty (reported separately by fines and detention orders) for young offenders caught with knives or weapons for the last three years (reported separately by year)?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised that there were a range of penalties imposed for young offenders for these offences, however in relation to fines and detention orders:

- (a) In 2020-21, the average period of detention for young offenders was 5.6 months, and the average fine amount was \$487.50;
- (b) In 2021-22, the average period of detention for young offenders was 5.8 months, and there were no fines issued for these types of offences;
- (c) In 2022-23, the average period of detention for young offenders was 7.0 months, and there was one fine ordered, in the amount of \$150; and
- (d) In 2023-24 year to date (1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023), the average period of detention for young offenders was 5.8 months, and there was one fine ordered, in the amount of \$100.

The Government's legislation provides courts and police officers strengthened tools to respond to unacceptable offending which poses a significant risk of harm to both the community and offenders, as community safety must always be paramount. Courts may employ a range of sentencing options beyond fines and detention, which can include such penalties as community service orders, probation, and recognizance / good behaviour orders.

The courts, in reaching a decision on sentencing, must take into account a range of factors including the nature of the offence, the seriousness of the offence and the circumstances of the offender.

Data note:

- 1) Data relates to offences under the *Weapons Act 1990*.