

**Question on Notice  
No. 1754  
Asked on 11 November 2009**

MR KNUTH asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

How many applications to possess a long-arm firearm are currently waiting to be processed and how many personnel are employed to process the applications?

ANSWER:

As of 19 November 2009, the number of long-arm firearm applications waiting to be processed was 2,124. There are currently three staff members responsible for assessing these applications.

The delay in the processing of the applications is due to a number of reasons. Staff members working within this section receive over 400 telephone inquiries per week regarding these applications. Also, during the winter influenza season staff sickness impacted their ability to process the applications in a timely manner.

The Weapons Licensing Branch is currently implementing a number of strategies to address the length of time to process these applications and it is envisaged these strategies will reduce the current workload and time taken to issue the permits.

I am advised that substantial progress has already been made towards achieving this objective.