

**Question on Notice
No. 2024
Asked on 7 October 2010**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to handguns and knives used in crimes in Queensland for the last financial year—

- (1) How many handguns were found to be owned by identifiable, registered gun owners?
- (2) How many knives were used in crimes during the same period?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government supports the national legislative framework for weapons regulation and continues to ensure that Queensland legislation balances the safety and expectations of the community, the enforcement requirements of the Queensland Police Service, and, of course, the rights of lawful weapons industry stakeholders.

In 2007, this Government commenced a wide-ranging review of the Weapons Act 1990 with a view to maintaining this balance. This review is ongoing and has to date included frequent consultation with peak industry representatives and an invitation to the general public to provide feedback on the draft Bill. It is anticipated a Bill will be introduced to Parliament next year

With specific reference to part (1) of the Member's question, I am advised it is not possible for the Queensland Police Service to provide all the information requested due to the limitations of the Service's current computer Weapons Licensing System (WLS). This system resides on the Queensland Police Service mainframe which is due to be decommissioned in March 2011.

The Queensland Police Service is investing in the development and introduction of a new contemporary Weapons Licensing Management system (WLMS) which is expected to be fully implemented during 2011. The integrated system will include the Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange system (QPRIME), customer relations management and electronic document records management systems. It will streamline processes and provide efficiency of service to licence holders, firearm dealers and shooting clubs, including the ability to complete some transactions on-line. The system will also enable an improved recording and reporting of weapons related information.

I am advised that during the calendar years 2009 and 2010 (to date) 38 concealable firearm licence holders have had their concealable firearm licences revoked due to behaviour or circumstances. These include convictions for weapons and other criminal offences, acts of domestic violence and for the breach of licence conditions.

Searches of police systems have revealed that for the 2008/09 financial year there were 317 reported offences involving a handgun and 4,008 reported offences involving a knife as the most serious weapon type. For the period 1 July 2009 to 31 March 2010, there were 317 reported offences involving a handgun and 3,197 reported offences involving a knife.

The final 2009/10 statistics are currently unavailable as they are being collated for publication in the Annual Statistical Review due for release in November 2010.

The following table shows the numbers of reported offences involving a handgun and knife in Queensland in 2008/09.

Reported Broad Offence Categories by most serious Weapon Type, Queensland, 2008/09

Offence	2008/09	
	Handgun	Knife
Offences Against the Person	149	1,699
Offences Against Property	39	389
Other Offences	129	1,920