

Question on Notice
No. 613
Asked on 21 June 2022

MR J LISTER ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to weapons licensing— Will the Minister advise what the average processing time is over the last three years (reported separately by year) for the following (a) weapons license Application, (b) weapon license renewal, (c) permit to acquire and change of address/storage facility details?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) advise that processing times is an area of focus for Weapons Licensing.

I am advised by the QPS that there are many variables, which can influence the processing time of applications, including incomplete and incorrect applications.

Further, I am advised by the QPS that the impact of COVID-19 and an approximate 12.5% increase in the number of new weapons licence applications from 2019 to 2021 continue to affect processing times.

I am advised by the QPS that Weapons Licencing continues to monitor business processes to identify strategies to optimise processing timeframes. This includes the creation of a temporary workforce of 50 personnel to address demand, with recruitment for these positions underway.

The 2022/23 budget provides additional resources to deliver better services by streamlining processes and digitising records at Weapons Licensing and to start the process for a new Weapons Licencing management system with work commencing this year.

I am advised by the QPS that the average processing time for new weapons licence applications was 8.5 weeks in 2019, 12.4 weeks in 2020 and 19.8 weeks in 2021.

The QPS advise that the renewal of a weapons licence is on average processed within approximately 12 days from the date of expiry. I am advised by the QPS that data prior to this time cannot be centrally verified and to do so would require a manually examination of police records which the QPS considers to be an unreasonable use of police resources at this time.

I am advised by the QPS that the average processing time for permits to acquire was 12.5 days in 2019, 12.5 days in 2020 and 17.7 days in 2021. The QPS advise that the average processing time for a change of address or storage facility details was 15 days in 2019, 10 days in 2020 and 8 days in 2021.