

CORONAVIRUS — FIREARMS LICENSING

370. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the unanswered part (2) of question without notice 346 asked yesterday regarding the possibility of waiving firearm licence application fees. Can the minister please advise whether she will consider waiving firearm licence application fees for applicants resubmitting applications that were declined under the state of emergency directive; and, if not, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

The Western Australia Police Force advise that in a state of emergency, only applications that meet the requirements of paragraph (4)(a)–(d) of the closure of gun shops directions issued by the State Emergency Coordinator and meet the genuine need or genuine reason requirement under the Firearms Act 1973 will be approved. As such, applications should not currently be made unless they meet these requirements. I have asked police to make this clearer on their website and ahead of the application process, and also to work with applicants who, after the directions are revoked, wish to resubmit their application to avoid the issue of applications being declined.