

CORONAVIRUS — GUN SHOP EXEMPTIONS

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

I refer to the state of emergency directive “Closure of Gun Shops (No 2)”, issued due to concerns about ammunition stockpiling, with exemptions for certain classes of people to negotiate access to gun shops on an individual basis. Considering the directive states that breaches of the directive are punishable by a fine of up to \$50 000 for individuals and \$250 000 for bodies corporate, and notwithstanding that proof is required by way of a statutory declaration, what other responsibility will firearms dealers have in determining whether a customer seeking to purchase ammunition is exempt?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

Honourable member, the question had “exempt person”, so I was waiting for the word “person”, which was the last word that was missing.

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

The Western Australia Police Force advises that on 31 March 2020, further information was provided to businesses to clarify their obligations. If further clarification or assistance is required, people can contact the licensing services firearms branch of the Western Australia Police Force via email or phone. The state government is providing detailed information to the public via its own website, and a COVID-19 call centre is in the process of being established to assist the community in meeting its obligations under the current state of emergency.