

FIREARMS LICENSING

523. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the licensing of firearms.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that the current backlog of applications is 630; and, if not 630, what is the number?
- (2) When does the minister expect that backlog to clear?
- (3) What now is the average time taken to process and approve an application?
- (4) What is the rationale behind a recent increase in fees for the addition of an extra firearm on a licence?
- (5) How can the minister justify an increase in the fee at a time when the level of service has dropped?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) As at 30 July 2010 there were 653 firearm applications on hand.
- (2) Due to legislative requirements—that is, the 28-day cooling-off period—and the constant influx of new applications, it is estimated there would always be in the vicinity of 400 applications on hand.
- (3) It is not possible to estimate an average time as there are many variables with applications, including errors by applicants in the initial application and then the time taken by the applicant to respond.
- (4) Cost recovery.
- (5) Cost recovery.