

CORONAVIRUS — SHOOTING SPORTS AND FIREARMS INDUSTRY

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

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, shooting clubs have cancelled events and competitions to protect members and the community from the spread of the disease. Firearm licence holders, whose genuine reason to hold a licence is in relation to their membership of a shooting club, are required to attend a minimum number of club events each year to comply with conditions of their licence to maintain it. With the closure of club events, that is now not possible.

- (1) Has this issue been brought to the minister's attention?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the requirement for firearms licence holders to meet the minimum number of club attendances each year in order to retain their licence be suspended?
- (3) If yes to (2), will WA Police Force notify shooting clubs to advise them that the requirements will be suspended during the COVID-19 crisis?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Police. The Western Australia Police Force advises as follows.

- (1)–(3) Pursuant to the Firearms Act 1973, clubs have been advised by police that a requirement to shoot is a 12-month assessment and that a member can shoot later in the year to gain that proficiency. If a shooting club member cannot meet requirements for a particular reason, police will assess, and, if reasonable, will not take any action under their discretionary powers.