



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Our Ref: 26-1424
Your Ref: 22542453
Telephone: 8207 5590



Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

"I am requesting access to the following documents and information held by South Australia Police, Firearms Branch under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1991. 1. Processing Volumes (FY2018-19 to present) The number of: a) Permits to Acquire lodged, approved and refused b) Firearms licence applications lodged, approved and refused c) Firearms licence renewals lodged, approved and refused For each financial year from 2018-19 up to and including the 2025-26 financial year to date. 2. Processing Time Targets and KPIs Copies of any briefings, letters, emails, memos or relevant documents that set out current processing time targets, KPIs, service standards, benchmarks or expected turnaround times for: a) Permits to Acquire b) Firearms licence applications c) Firearms licence renewals 3. Section 23 Subsection (10) Policy or Guidance Copies of any current briefings, letters, emails, memos or relevant documents that provide policy guidance, instructions or procedures for applying to section 23 subsection (10) of the SA Firearms Act 2015. 4. Staffing and Resourcing Documents a) The number of staff each assigned to processing Permits to Acquire, firearms licence applications and firearms licence renewals as of 14 November 2025. b) The number of staff each assigned to processing Permits to Acquire, firearms licence applications and firearms licence renewals as of 1 July 2024. c) Any briefings, letters, emails, memos or relevant documents produced in FY2024-25 or FY2025-26 to date that record staffing shortages, resourcing issues or requests for additional resources within Firearms Branch. d) Copies of staffing allocation matrix or workflow map that shows how staff (sworn and unsworn) are allocated across the SAPOL Firearms Branch. 5. Pending Applications The total number of pending: a) Permits to Acquire applications b) Firearms Licence applications c) Firearms Licence Renewals As of November 14, 2025 6. National Firearms Register a) Copies of any briefings, letters, emails, memos or relevant documents since 1 July 2024 that discuss or assess the impact of National Firearms Register related work on Firearms Branch workloads or capacity. b) The total number of staff assigned to work on projects related to the National Firearms Register. 7. Complaint Summaries The number of complaints received regarding Permit to Acquire, firearm licence application or firearm renewal processing FY2024-25 and FY2025-26 to date".



In February 2026, my office was advised that [REDACTED], the original applicant, was no longer employed by the Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia, and that you wished to receive the information in his place. This was agreed to, with an extension of time until Friday, 13 March 2026.

Under the FOI Act, agencies are required to respond to FOI requests within 30 days or an extended period as defined within the Act. As South Australia Police (SAPOL) did not respond within this statutory timeframe, your application is deemed to have been refused. Despite this, I have determined to proceed with processing your request as though the response was provided within the required time frame.

SAPOL has located information that falls within the scope of your request and where documents exist, has agreed to **release the information to you in full**:

1. SAPOL is unable to provide data for Financial Year (FY) 2018–19 as these records are not held. The statistics below commence from FY 2019–20. The statistics show the number of applications lodged for each financial year. Data on approvals or refusals was not recorded. For FY 2025–26, completed licence renewals and Permits to Acquire are now being captured and are included in the statistics.

Licence Applications, Renewals and Permits to Acquire							
	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26 <small>*to 30 Nov 2025</small>
Licence App Lodged	2744	3628	2754	2855	2734	3147	1800
Licence App Approved/Refused							
Licence Renewal Lodged	25055	23576	22275	20911	21640	20360	19695
Licence Renewal Completed							17274
Permit to Acquire Lodged	14736	23155	20677	21750	23263	18692	16465
Permit to Acquire Completed							15678

Caveat: The data provided reflects a specific point in time and may not align with datasets generated on different reporting dates.

2. Due to the complexity and variability involved in processing licence applications, renewals, and permits, Firearms Branch (FAB) does not set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or specific processing time targets. Instead, performance is monitored on an ongoing basis. Certain time frames are prescribed by legislation. Therefore, no documents were located for this part of your request.
3. No documents were identified that provide policy guidance, instructions, or procedures relating to the application of section 23(10) of the *Firearms Act 2015*. This provision operates directly in accordance with the legislation and is applied at the discretion of the Registrar.
4. Staffing levels with the FAB Registry and Adjudication sections are 17.8 substantive Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions, however temporary staffing has increased since 2023 supplemented by a number of additional roles. Staff possess diverse skill sets and receive ongoing training. Accordingly, rosters are managed on both a daily and monthly basis as required to ensure the processing of licence applications, renewals, and permits.

5. Applications yet to be commenced on 14 November 2025:

Licence applications	1792
Licence Renewals	4195
Permits to Acquire	2192

6. There are no documents available within the scope of your request as no FAB staff are assigned to work on the National Firearms Register project.

7. Such complaints are not captured within FAB. While SAPOL does receive and manage complaints, they can only be retrieved by searching specific categories. There are no searchable categories for Permit to Acquire, firearm licence applications, or firearm renewal processing. Consequently, there are no documents available within the scope of this part of your application.

Please Note: The statistics provided reflect data drawn from outdated legacy systems. The data is intended primarily for work-querying purposes, not for producing reliable performance statistics.

We have, in this instance, waived further fees for the provision of non-personal information due to the delays in providing this information to you. Please note that additional costs may apply if you choose to re-apply for similar information in the future.

Disclosure Log

A disclosure log is published on the SAPOL website in accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045. Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information and lists documents that have been disclosed in response to a request for access to non-personal information pursuant to the FOI Act. The disclosure log can be found at <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/about-us/proactive-disclosure>.

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 1 May 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Brevet Sergeant Jason Vesey
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

14 April 2026