



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Our Ref: 23-2335
Enquiry:
Telephone: 7322 3347
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In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

“How many Gel blasters are registered? How many licences have been approved or had the category added to an existing licence for Gel Blasters? Which towns are gel blasters registered and/or stored? How many people have been denied a licence for a Gel Blaster? How many incidents have happened relating to a Gel Blaster? Please separate between pre October 2020 and post. How many of those caused someone to be charged/reported/arrested for a Gel Blaster related offence? Which towns have the most Gel Blaster offences? What surveillance was conducted on retailers, fields, players and other stake holders? What reports, notes, meetings and surveillance was directed to me personally?”

For ease of response, your application has been broken down into parts and each part addressed separately below.

In relation to this part of your request

“How many Gel blasters are registered? Date range 1/1/2018 to 30/4/2023”

As at 30 April 2022 there were 2,869 gel blaster firearms registered in South Australia. This information was manually gathered from SAPOL systems at a point in time for a specific purpose and would otherwise not be provided as it is extremely time consuming and labour intensive.

Statistics since this time have not been provided as the information is not readily available and the system is not capable of producing a document which provides the data.



In relation to this part of your request

“How many licences have been approved or had the category added to an existing licence for Gel Blasters? Date range 1/1/2018 to 10/5/2023”

As at 30 April 2022 there were 23,551 Category 4 (paint-ball shooting) firearms licences, this included authorising possession and use of gel blaster firearms. This information was manually gathered from SAPOL systems at a point in time for a specific purpose and would otherwise not be provided as it is extremely time consuming and labour intensive.

Statistics since this time have not been provided as the information is not readily available and the system is not capable of producing a document which provides the data.

In relation to this part of your request

“Which towns are gel blasters registered and/or stored?”

Release of data of this nature is not considered consistent with the Registrar’s obligations re confidentiality of holdings and would be considered of risk to public safety. Whilst SAPOL does hold this information within its computer systems, the information is not readily available and the system is not capable of producing a document which provides the data.

In order to satisfy your request, an employee from another section of SAPOL external to FOI would be required to manually extract the data specific to each part of your request and subsequently spend a significant period of time creating and merging all the data into a document and manipulating the results to remove erroneous information unrelated to your request.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 1991, states:

“A person has a legally enforceable right to be given access to an agency’s documents in accordance with this Act”.

SAPOL is not required to create a document in order to satisfy your request and I am of the opinion that your request falls outside the scope of the FOI Act 1991. As a result SAPOL is not able to produce any documents with regards to this part of your application.

In relation to this part of your request

“How many people have been denied a licence for a Gel Blaster? Date range 1/1/2018 to 10/5/2023”

Approximately 43* applicants have been denied a licence for a gel blaster during the above date range.

**An application for a Gel Blaster licence is a Category A4 licence which also includes the use of Paint-ball firearms; therefore any statistic collected is not unique to Gel Blasters.*

In relation to this part of your request

“How many incidents have happened relating to a Gel Blaster? Date range 1/1/2018 to 10/5/2023 Please separate between pre October 2020 and post.”

Whilst SAPOL does hold this information within its computer systems, the information is not readily available and the system is not capable of producing a document which provides the data.

In order to satisfy your request, an employee from another section of SAPOL external to FOI would be required to manually extract the data specific to each part of your request and subsequently spend a significant period of time creating and merging all the data into a document and manipulating the results to remove erroneous information unrelated to your request.

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In relation to this part of your request

"How many of those caused someone to be charged/reported/arrested for a Gel Blaster related offence? Date range 1/1/2018 to 10/5/2023 Please separate between pre October 2020 and post."

Whilst SAPOL does hold this information within its computer systems, the information is not readily available and the system is not capable of producing a document which provides the data.

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In relation to this part of your request

"Which towns have the most Gel Blaster offences?"

Whilst SAPOL does hold this information within its computer systems, the information is not readily available and the system is not capable of producing a document which provides the data.

In order to satisfy your request, an employee from another section of SAPOL external to FOI would be required to manually extract the data specific to each part of your request and subsequently spend a significant period of time creating and merging all the data into a document and manipulating the results to remove erroneous information unrelated to your request.

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In relation to this part of your request

“What surveillance was conducted on retailers, fields, players and other stake holders (pre dating legislative change)?”

Enquiries made with OC Firearms Branch revealed that SAPOL do not hold any documents relative to this part of your request.

In relation to this part of your request

“What reports, notes, meetings and surveillance was directed to me personally? (pre dating legislative change)?”

On 18 May 2023 I spoke with you to clarify this part of your request and you specified you are seeking any reports, notes, meetings or surveillance documents in which you are the subject, relative to gel blasters.

Enquiries made with OC Firearms Branch revealed that SAPOL do not hold any documents relative to this part of your request.

Disclosure Log

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf. If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by **14 June 2023**.

Yours sincerely



Senior Sergeant Kelly Johnson
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

16 June 2023