



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Progress Made on Processing Firearm Licence Applications: Report Back

**Portfolio**                      **Police**

On 3 May 2023, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in September 2022, Cabinet noted delays in Police processing firearms licence applications, agreed to amend the Arms Act 1983 to treat firearms licences as current where applications cannot be processed before expiry, and invited the Minister of Police to report back in March 2023 on Police's progress in processing licensing applications, including identifying where improvements can be made [CAB-22-MIN-0396];
- 2        **noted** that there has been a significant improvement in the performance of Police in processing firearms licence applications across a range of measures since 1 July 2022;
- 3        **noted** that Police are working towards processing all applications that have been in the pipeline for more than 90 days by June 2023;
- 4        **noted** that:
  - 4.1        changes to the Arms Act 1983, which terminated lifetime licences and required firearms owners to apply for ten-year licences, will create a peak in demand in applications for firearms licences;
  - 4.2        Police expects to meet this increase in demand through its investment in processing capacity and system improvements.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Jan Tinetti (Chair)  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan  
Hon Ginny Andersen  
Hon Barbara Edmonds  
Hon Willow-Jean Prime  
Jo Luxton, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the Chair  
Officials' Committee for SWC