

INFORMATION REQUEST

Buy-back information on decisions, timeframes and operational processes

Deadline: 1900 hrs 9 April 2019

Date of Response: 9 April 2019

Purpose

1. This information is in response to a request for a summary of decisions made, yet to be made, and next steps in relation to the firearms buy-back scheme.

Decisions made by Ministers

2. This table outlines the decisions made by Ministers on the buy back scheme.

Purpose	To get as many prohibited semi-automatic firearms out of our communities, as quickly as possible, to improve public safety
Legislative basis for compensation	Provided for in the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Bill
The buy-back will cover	Lawfully acquired: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibited firearms• Prohibited high-capacity magazines• Prohibited parts, excluding those 'aftermarket' parts that are interchangeable with other firearms that are not prohibited
The buy-back will not cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unlawfully acquired property• Items which are not prohibited• Licence holders who receive an exemption to possess the prohibited item
Independent advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be sought to develop the price list for approval
An expert panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be established to determine and recommend compensation for higher value items
Regulation-making power	That enables price lists to be developed that can – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply differently to different classes of persons, licence holders, and items, e.g. dealers / individual licence holders

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set parameters for receiving compensation payments, for example the number of magazines for which compensation will be paid • Consider make model and condition of items in determining price • Set different price points, e.g. high, middle and low • Set a minimum and maximum price cap <p>The final pricing need not include provision for -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic loss • Consequential loss • Business interruption • Intrinsic or sentimental value <p>The regulation could be structured to incentivise uptake on a government-funded option to permanently modify larger capacity shotguns so that they are no longer prohibited items (which may be a less expensive, and preferable approach for gun owners).</p>
Duration	Will run for 6 months from the date final buy-back details, including pricing, are announced

Decisions yet to be made

Regulations may also set out business compensation

3. Ministers have yet to finalise decisions on payments to businesses. Options presented by officials have included:
 - 3.1. stock at full retail price
 - 3.2. stock at wholesale price including freight
 - 3.3. stock at wholesale price excluding freight
4. Police has undertaken to provide further advice to aid decision making about these settings.

Timeframes for next steps

5. A paper setting out the pricing approach and pricing lists for regulations will be provided to the Minister of Police in the week of 29 April 2019. We anticipate delivering the regulations for the buy-back, including providing a price list for approval, for Cabinet on 6 May 2019.

Operational processes that have been decided

6. Police has made decisions about high level operational processes for the buy-back scheme.
7. An IT system is being developed which will manage information and business processes throughout the life-cycle of a firearm or item being surrendered for buy-back. This commences with information capture from firearms owners who may be candidates for buy-back, through to the collection, recording, storage and destruction phases.
8. The system will also provide for the mechanism to enable payment of the compensation.
9. Police will publish the price list on its website once it has been agreed by Ministers. This online availability means that the compensation will be known by firearms owners at the time they hand over their prohibited item(s) to Police. The exception to this would be high value items that require a panel assessment before the value of compensation is set.
10. Police is working hard to work with the firearms community to ensure that processes are well understood and that, as far as possible, its needs are met.

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