PROACTIVE INFORMATION

Draft timelines for the buy-back regulations and Bill 2

Deadline: 22 May 2019 Date of Response: 22 May 2019

Purpose

- Following a meeting between you and the Minister of Finance on 15 May 2019 about the buy-back of prohibited firearms, further discussion with you on 20 May 2019 and Ministerial consultation on 22 May 2019, this note indicates proposed timeframes for:
 - decisions by Ministers on compensation for dealers and final policy decisions on the buy-back;
 - regulations to implement the buy-back scheme; and
 - Arms Amendment Bill (2).

Proposed timeframes are enclosed for your consideration

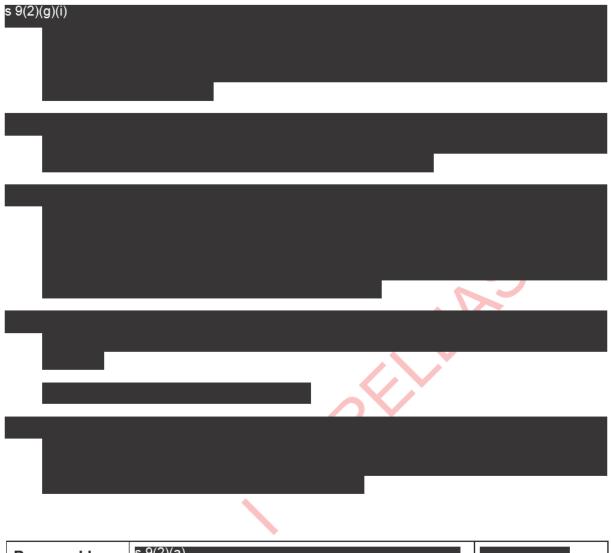
2. The proposed timeframes for the buy-back regulations and Arms Amendment Bill (2) are attached to this information request. Both timelines remain extremely tight, creating risks of missing key milestones and ultimately, delayed delivery.

Firearms buy-back regulations

- 3. Based on the attached timeframe, the regulations for buy-back would be agreed by Ministers by 29 May and by Cabinet (without going to LEG Committee) on 17 June. This would allow the regulations to be gazetted on 20 June and be in force on 21 June. The buy-back could then commence from that date. The buy-back could be announced any time from Cabinet decision on 17 June to commencement on 21 June.
- 4. The Cabinet paper will include proposals related to buy-back of now prohibited firearms from owners, prohibited stock from dealers and the regulations required to enable the buy-back to take place. It will also include a proposal of Government paying an administrative fee to dealers in recognition for undertaking a role in the buy-back programme.
- 5. If the buy-back commences on 21 June and lasted six months, it would conclude on 20 December (the Friday before Christmas) and the amnesty would be extended to that point. The period leading up to Christmas is already a busy one for Policing and this will create workload issues during this period. Given the proximity of the end of the buy-back to Christmas, any slippage in timeframes of establishing the regulations would necessitate extending the amnesty and buyback period so it concludes beyond the Christmas/January period, probably in February or March.

6. The critical variables to meet the timeframes for the compensation regulations include receipt of final advice from KPMG, decisions from Ministers with Power to Act, and drafting of the regulations by PCO. PCO will need some days to complete drafting the regulations, particularly if the compensation options are complex. If decisions are made by Ministers by 29 May, PCO has advised that it can draft regulations in time to proceed straight to Cabinet on 17 June (lodging 13 June). Alongside this we will draft the necessary Cabinet paper. Treasury has advised that this timeline may be challenging for the Minister of Finance given the proximity to Budget.





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