

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 728****DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 4 MARCH 2022**
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 6-2022)**728. Dr P J Groenewald (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Police:**

- (1) What process must be followed to verify fingerprints during the application for firearm licences and/or competency certificates;
- (2) (a) what total number of applications that needed to be verified have been submitted to the Criminal Record Centre in each province (i) in the (aa) 2017-18, (bb) 2018-19, (cc) 2019-20 and (dd) 2020-21 financial years and (ii) since 1 January 2022 and (b) of what total number of such applications that have been submitted in the specified financial years and period, has the Criminal Record Centre provided feedback on;
- (3) what is the reason that the profiling system is not used?

NW867E

REPLY:

- (1) A full set of fingerprints, taken on a SAPS 91(a), must be submitted to the Criminal Record and Crime Scene Management (CR&CSM), by the Central Firearm Register (CFR). Upon receipt of the fingerprint form, the data is captured on the CR&CSM System. The entry must reflect a successful integration test with the Enhanced Firearms Register System (EFRS), during the registration process. The fingerprints are then processed and once the fingerprint search is concluded, the report becomes available, electronically, through an interphase between the Criminal Record Information Management (CRIM) System and the EFRS. This report reflects any criminal convictions and/or awaiting trial cases against the individual.

(2)(a)(i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(dd) and (ii)

The total number of applications that needed to be verified and submitted to the Criminal Record Centre (CRC), per province, in 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 and from 1 January 2022 to 28 February 2022, is reflected in the table below.

Province	(a)(i) Total number of applications submitted to CRC for verification				
	(aa) 2017/2018	(bb) 2018/2019	(cc) 2019/2020	(dd) 2020/2021	(ii) 1 January to 28 February 2022
Eastern Cape	9 860	11 996	9 760	13 927	2 189
Free State	8 991	8 592	9 095	12 327	1 106
Gauteng	47 714	45 613	40 266	49 986	23 047
KwaZulu-Natal	27 536	26 384	28 042	17 221	13 823
Limpopo	17 755	17 836	14 455	18 897	4 750
Mpumalanga	11 605	13 225	11 042	10 326	4 387
North West	8 459	9 767	6 724	7 974	6 421
Northern Cape	2 265	2 516	1 897	2 532	2 189
Western Cape	15 983	15 911	13 597	21 215	4 831
Total	150 168	151 840	134 878	154 405	62 743

(2)(b) The total number of such applications that have been submitted in the specified financial years and the period, for which the CRC has provided feedback on, is reflected in the table below.

Province	Total number of applications submitted and feedback received				
	(aa) 2017/2018	(bb) 2018/2019	(cc) 2019/2020	(dd) 2020/2021	(ii) 1 January to 28 February 2022
Eastern Cape	9 838	11 988	9 355	9 834	149
Free State	8 980	8 575	7 321	10 648	343
Gauteng	47 609	44 425	37 110	38 255	1 639
KwaZulu-Natal	27 476	25 832	26 645	11 879	781
Limpopo	17 734	17 762	14 244	17 151	828
Mpumalanga	11 597	12 904	9 909	10 014	382
North West	8 444	9 636	6 331	5 376	668
Northern Cape	2 261	2 455	1 785	2 016	13
Western Cape	15 960	15 665	11 177	18 754	778
Total	149 899	149 242	123 877	123 927	5 581

(2) The profiling system is limited to searching alpha data¹, which is not reliable, in terms of verifying the identity of a person. The profiling system was designed for investigation purposes, allowing for a thorough confirmation of the identified data by the investigator. It is a known fact that suspects and offenders often supply aliases and incorrect identity numbers, when arrested. Identity theft may result in an innocent person being identified as an offender by using an identity number as

¹ Alpha data relates to the names, surnames and identity numbers of applicants, as well as the reference number of the application, which is issued by the CFR.

search criteria, during profiling. Incorrect identification may lead to the denial of a licence/competency unfairly and may result in litigation against the State.

A fingerprint search eliminates the risk of identifying an incorrect individual or not identifying the correct individual, as it is based on the biometrics, namely the fingerprints of a person that do not change throughout the life of the person.

Reply to question 728 recommended/~~not~~ recommended



**GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
SF MASEMOLA**

Date: 2022-04-06

Reply to question 728 approved/~~not~~ approved



**MINISTER OF POLICE
GENERAL BH CELE, MP**

Date: 11/04/2022