

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 3849

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 28-2025)

3849. Mr I Cameron (DA) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) What total number of service firearms were lost or stolen (a)(i) in each financial year in the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 and (ii) have been recovered and (b) as a result of (i) negligence, (ii) theft and (iii) robbery;
- (2) whether there are (a) police stations, (b) cluster divisions and (c) ranks of officers that have been identified as highly prone to firearm losses and thefts; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a)(i) The following numbers of official firearms have been reported as losses by the South African Police Service (SAPS), per financial year, from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024:

(i) Financial Year	(i) Stolen	(i) Lost	Total	(ii) Recovered	Total
2019/2020	629	43	672	145	145
2020/2021	537	29	566	2	2
2021/2022	664	48	712	122	122
2022/2023	699	43	742	173	173
2023/2024	684	57	741	117	117
Total	3 213	220	3 433	559	559

NB: the data depicted in (1)(a)(i) refers to the "how" (status) of the firearm as it was circulated on EFRS.

- (1)(b)(i)(ii)(ii) The firearms that were lost as a result of (i) negligence, (ii) theft and (iii) robbery, are reflected in the table below:

Financial Year	(i) Negligence	(ii) Theft	(iii) Robbery	Total
2019/2020	41	328	303	672
2020/2021	29	239	298	566
2021/2022	52	247	413	712
2022/2023	33	303	406	742
2023/2024	57	280	404	741
Total	212	1397	1 824	3 433

NB: the data depicted in (1)(b)(i)(ii)(ii) relates to the CAS dockets that were registered and investigated, therefore, the total of stolen/lost firearms, per serial number, is broken down into the 3 categories as: negligent; theft and robbery. Also note that there is not

a one-to-one relationship between the two tables. The total number of firearms depicted is, however, the same.

- (2)(a)(b)(c) The information regarding the high risk police stations, cluster divisions and ranks of officers identified with regard to the loss/theft of firearms cannot be disclosed as this may reveal specific vulnerabilities, which may be exploited, thereby posing additional risks to the SAPS and its members.