

**854. Hon. R Jankielsohn (DA) asks the Hon. MEC responsible for CSRT: Mr. J Mbalula.**

Regarding firearm competence and training of SAPS members in the Free State Province:

1. What are the (a) legal and (b) training requirements for SAPS members to carry firearms?
2. How many SAPS members have been issued with firearms in the Free State?
3. Have the (a) legal and (b) training requirements been met for each SAPS member who has been issued with firearms in the Free State? If not, why not and how many members do not meet the (i) legal and/or (ii) training requirements as prescribed?
4. How many SAPS issued firearms have been (a) lost and (b) stolen in the past five years to the latest date for which information is available in the Free State province?
5. Has the SAPS in the Free State budgeted for enough ammunition for (a) training and (b) operational requirements in the Free State in the (i) 2023/24, (b) 2024/25 and (c) 2025/26 financial years respectively? If not, what were/are the (d) budgetary shortfalls and (e) ammunition shortages per type? If so, what are the relevant amounts per mentioned years respectively?

**NO RESPONSE**

**RESPONSE 13/05/2026**

1(a) The Firearm Control Act, Act 60 of 2000 and Section 49 of the Criminal Procedure Act, Act 51 of 1977 (Use of Deadly Force) deals with the firearm competence of SAPS Act members.

1(b) All SAPS Act members are expected to undergo the Legal Principles training intervention and the Use of Firearms training intervention.

During the Legal Principles training intervention, the SAPS Act members are trained on the Use of deadly force (Section 49 of the Criminal Procedure Act, Act 51 of 1977) and the Firearms Control Act, Act 60 of 2000.

During the Use of Firearms training intervention, the SAPS Act members are trained on the safety procedure and safety considerations of handling of three SAPS firearms namely the 9mm handgun (pistol), the R5 semi-automatic rifle and the 12-bore shotgun.

2. At least 58% of the members are issued with firearms in the province.

3(a) Yes

3(b) No.

The reasons for the backlog of SAPS Act members not maintained as follows:

- There was a shortage of ammunition namely the 9mm rounds and R5 rounds to conduct the necessary shooting assessments.
- There is only one SAPS shooting range available in the Free State Province and it is situated at Makwane, in the Eastern Free State. It is in a very dilapidated state.
- The SAPS normally utilizes the SANDF and Department of Correctional Services shooting ranges to conduct the necessary shooting assessments.
- However, the SAPS did not receive adequate slots at these shooting ranges to complete these necessary shooting assessments.

3(i) Nil

3(ii) 221 SAPS Act members in terms of required training in terms of the Firearm Control Act, Act 60 of 2000

3424 SAPS Act members in terms of not maintaining their firearm competency.

4(a) and (b) Below is the available information regarding losses and stolen firearms: -

	NATURE OF INCIDENT	(i)	2023/24	(ii)2024/25	(iii)2025/26
4(a)	LOSS	2		0	1
4(b)	STOLEN	5		23	6

5(a) Yes

5(b) Yes

5(c) Below is the nature of the ammunition details: -

	NATURE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
5(a)	Training	121 766	152 208	190 260
5(b)	Operational	48 341	60 427	75 354

5(d) None

5(e) None