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The Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation  
GPO Box A11  
Perth WA 6837



Dear Sir

I have been involved with firearms ever since we arrived in WA way back in 1966 and now that I have retired from active medicine, I spend most of my time doing exactly what I chose to do, buying, selling, trading and shooting antique firearms, and improving my Colonial Arms Museum.

Over the years I have shot for the Australian Tam at 9 overseas World Muzzle Loading championships, have been a Firearms Dealer since 1978, served as SSAA (WA) president for 5 years, founder and President of Perth Muzzle Loading Club for 35 years and the list goes on and on.

For as long as I can remember the WA Police firearms licencing and recording system has been a complete shambles. Recording the guns owned by the law abiding, as well as serving no demonstrable benefit, can best be described as a grossly inaccurate record of some of the guns owned by the law abiding.

Since I have been a dealer I have probably had about 6 stock checks. Each time there were dozens of guns supposedly on my records that had either been sold and not deleted or just materialized from out of the blue. I believe that the end results were that the Police just wrote the extra guns off.

About 4 weeks ago the Police contacted me so that a stock check could be organized and this was booked for a few days later. The usual stock check consists of picking 6 guns at random and checking them of against the Police record of my stock guns.

Everything was quite kosher and then I was hit with a bomb shell. The very polite Police Officers told me that their records showed I had 749 guns on my books, did that sound about right? I told them that I probably had between 200-300 guns in stock and certainly had nowhere near the number they quoted.

The following day I received an e mail containing 157 pages of the nearly 4000 guns I had sold since starting my dealers register, and 30 more pages of the guns supposedly in stock.

On looking through the 30 pages of guns I am supposed to be holding, many of the guns were of makes and type I have never even heard of. Pages 5-9 listed assorted guns, many made in factories by well-known gun firms but without any serial numbers, and the nonsense goes on and on.

There is no way one can check guns which have no serial numbers, and I was so upset about the whole mess that I decided to do my own stock check. Several days later everything on my Dealers Register had been checked *and numbered*, the relevant figures being:- Hand Guns 178, Longarms 243. TOTAL 421.

A copy of my stock was sent to the Police and I informed them that what ever was on their records, and not on my stock list is an error, and not of my making.

Several days later I received a phone call from the Police who had been informed that the mess was causing me unnecessary stress, and that any recording errors were not mine and solely down to the error prone Police system.

I have not heard from the Police since then.

Unfortunately I will be in New Zealand from Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. till the end of the month, and am always happy to discuss the unsatisfactory matter at some convenient time.

I hope that the above information will be of some practical assistance, as to date, all efforts to improve a very poor error prone system has failed miserably.

Sincerely,

Leo Laden. MBBS, LRCP, MRCS.

30/8/2013