

Dear South Africa is a network of online platforms designed to facilitate government and encourage the public to participate in unbiased decision-making processes or policy formation at SOE, municipal, provincial and national levels.



Firearms Control Amendment Act

21 May to 4 August, 2021

Government invited the public to comment on the Firearms Control Amendment Bill.

- deleting of licensing of firearms for self defence
- reduction of licence period to five years
- reduce number of allowed licences
- limit ammunition per licence
- unlawful to reload ammunition

The above public participation campaign was released on 21 May 2021 where the closing date was set to 4 August 2021.

Written submissions and enquiries were prepared and directed to Mr M Ntwana at comments.fcabill@csp.gov.za

Dear South Africa (DearSA) hosted a participation project through Dear South Africa's mobile and online platform to facilitate, educate and encourage public participation and comment to shape this amendment.

<https://dearsouthafrica.co.za/firearm-control-2021/>

Included on the web page was:

- 1 - the published related documents as downloadable PDFs
- 2 - a live view of public comments (with a counter and breakdown reflecting number of participants)
- 3 - video summaries
- 4 - links to relevant media articles
- 5 - a portal which posed three questions (with the option of multiple responses to each question)
- 6 - a comment facility to provide input on the application

Each public entry was individually delivered to comments.fcabill@csp.gov.za. DearSA also captured all public entries which have been used to produce this report.






Note: In order to accurately reflect public comment, DearSA's projects are unbiased and hold no partisan opinion or agenda. Raw captured data is attached as an Excel file.

A total of **97,399** unique comments were received by the set closing of 4 August 2021 (included in the Excel file). The participants are encouraged to provide comment to justify their selection to help shape the policy amendment. This report reflects the entries received by the closing date.








Two question presented;

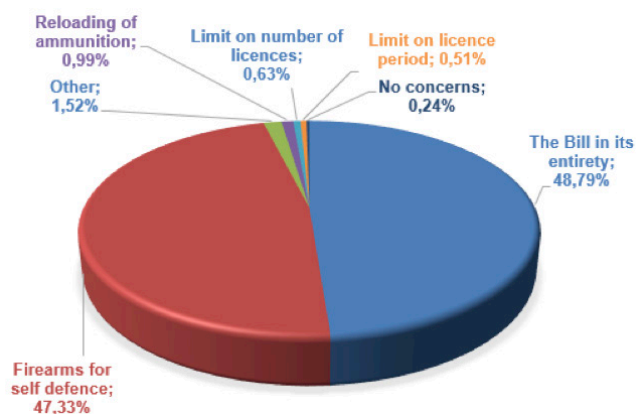
1. Do you support this Amendment to the Firearm Control Act?

	Yes, I do	[1,977 selected]	2.03%
	No, I do not	[93,482 selected]	95.98%
	Not fully	[1,940 selected]	1.99%



2. What is your top concern?

	The Bill in its entirety	[45,517 selected]	48.79%
	Firearms for self-defence	[46,100 selected]	47.33%
	Other	[1,481 selected]	1.52%
	Reloading of Ammunition	[968 selected]	0.99%
	Limit on number of licenses	[609 selected]	0.63%
	Limit on license period	[495 selected]	0.51%
	No concerns	[229 selected]	0.24%





Comments

The participants are encouraged to provide comment to justify their selection in order to help shape the Amendment.

Of the “Yes, I do” comments, the public in this category support these amendments and wish to remove all firearms from our communities. South Africa is home to 5 of the top 10 most dangerous cities in the world and without access to firearms, the participants believe this will reduce the number of crime incidents.

However, it was also mentioned that some citizens require their firearms for a hobby or for work (namely, a Professional Hunter) so to stay aligned to these existing environments, there have been some suggestions to allow one firearm per person. Others have suggested only allowing security personnel the opportunity to carry a firearm.

Suggestions from the “Yes I do” comments, include;

Concern; The Bill in its entirety

1. “Reduce the red tape for manual operated firearms.”
2. “We just giving the thugs an upper hand in killing us and as a woman we need to be armed as we are being killed, raped, abused.”
3. “I am a outfitter in the hunting and farming industry we need different weapons for different work, we need weapons for self-defence also I shoot competition with some of my rifles that’s been built for the purpose and does have a different purpose as a hunting rifle also different calibres, how must I do my work if I do not have the right tools for the work or purpose”
4. “Many people buy licensed firearms in the name of protection, yet at the end of the day they use them for different things. So, I think if they implement this new law, it will be better. However, there are a lot of unregistered firearms, and my question is: what will or is the government do about it?”
5. “First remove all the illegal firearms from the public or society then come back to remove the legal ones.”
6. “SA is the country with some of the highest murder and rape figures in the world. With due respect and some understanding for policing problems, it is common knowledge that crime runs rampant. Public has to protect itself. Taking the fundamental right to protect yourself away puts government on the side of the criminal.”
7. “Africa appears to be the dumping ground of ammunition and weapons to further destabilize us. South Africans do not need firearms other than the proverbial business owners, however the latter also needs to be further scrutinized as to what kind of businesses will be allowed. Our neighbourhoods are flooded with illegal weapons and ammunition which causes great instability in an already unstable environment. Five years for reduction of license period is still too long. Maybe every 2 years, that way we will be able to more accurate records. Also, companies in the security industry must be regulated and limitations must apply. Our security forces such as SAPS, Metro Cops, Army and Navy must be allowed to carry weapons in line with their duty and off times because armed forces serve the state and its people in a 24-hour capacity. I am hoping that by administering stringent measures will produce the desired fruit.”
8. “1 firearm per person and farmers to 2 firearms a pistol and a riffle with limited ammunition. Ammunition limited to 1 firearm. Self-defence cannot be considered.”
9. “We do bills but not enforcement. We get more laws but not less illegal guns or violence. This can be a good bill if this can be enforced.”

Concern; Firearms for self defence

1. “I rather not own a firearm even not for self-defence because you cannot make rational decision when confronted in a compromising position.”
2. “Don’t take away self-defence firearms. We need to protect ourselves and families. The problem is the government can’t drop the crime in SA.”



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3. "I am upset that according to the constitution citizens all have a right to life, yet criminals are the only ones surviving in SA and citizens have no rights. Criminals are never caught. Citizens have a right to protect themselves."
 4. "People should be allowed to protect themselves and their families."
 5. "I think the bill could've gone to an extent which all firearms are taken back from everyone and only SANDF to have. Even police do not need guns if the society does not hold 1. The society might be safer than with guns."
 6. "Dear Minister
Will you remove all bodyguards from all ministers? Why not? Now why take the firearms from people who must care for themselves because the government cannot provide any security to its residents who pay their salary's."
 7. "Self-defence is still good thing to have firearm."
 8. "ANC cronies must first disband their armed bodyguards, then we will know SA is safe."

Concern; Other

1. "I support a gun free South Africa. Limiting the use of firearms is a step in the right direction. The options you present unfortunately seem to assume respondents would be concerned over limitations of access to firearms."
2. "How about police start to patrol at night and in the morning where criminals do their robbery and take their guns then we can start talking about innocent people who are trying to protect them self."
3. "My concern relates to inefficiency of government departments to administer their own policies correctly. In theory guns should be controlled and limited to law enforcement. However, due to corruption the police services are questionable and there are many reported cases of illegal firearms making their way to criminals. The who situation needs to be cleaned up. I do not believe citizens should have access to firearms but at least this must be strictly controlled, and all illegal firearms should be destroyed with no chance to sell them on to the wrong people."
4. "We are living in a very violent environment so we need to limit weapons by all means but police must also play a role in making sure that citizens are safe."
5. "Our safety is guaranteed; the unrest was confirmation that SAPS and the SANDF cannot protect us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to protect our families. No, it's our right to protect our families from any harm whatsoever."

Concern; Reloading of ammunition

1. "I think this is an excellent initiative. Guns in the wrong hands are dangerous. And people who think they need a gun are dangerous. Conflict can be solved in many ways. But it's too easy to pull out a gun and shoot. After that there's no going back. You can't undo a bullet."
2. "We have so many people killed by guns in this country every year and there appears to be no strict controls enforced with regards the whole issue and storage. The entire Bill should be re-considered, and the enforcement done."
3. "I am a sport shooter and reloading is a must to be competitive."
4. "The cost of commercial ammunition is very high and as a dedicated sport shooter, I also find the commercial ammunition inaccurate."

Concern; Limit of number of licenses

1. "The plethora of firearms in SA is a danger to every citizen. But rather than focusing on lawful ownership, the number of illegal firearms needs to be pursued with real intensity. Stop trying to penalise lawful owners. This is so typical of SA law enforcement, go after the good guys and ignore the actual criminals! Get your damn priorities straight!"
2. "Limit gun ownership. Too many people have guns stolen and used on them before they themselves can use them."
3. "They should get all the unlicensed weapons of the streets then limit the weapons per person."



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4. "As a dedicated hunter as well as a collector of antique firearms the limiting of the number of licenses do not make sense and is undesirable and unacceptable. As a dedicated hunter you need a variety of firearms for different types of game (birds, small game, big game, dangerous game) as well as for different terrain, practice and sport shooting..."
 5. "My concern is the number of senseless killings and no arrests afterwards."
 6. "Weapons kill. Fewer weapons kill fewer people. There should be a Culture in South Africa with dealing with indifference without firearms."
 7. "Guns and ammunition are seriously detrimental to the well-being of our communities and is out of control. We need stricter controls to limit this use."
 8. "If we limit the number of firearm licenses issue we dully limit the number of firearms in our society and therefore limiting the number of firearms being stolen and in circulation committing crimes and an array of illegal activities."

Concern; Limit on license period

1. "Some people are mentally unstable, and this should be evaluated every 2 years. Review or renew or re-evaluate the persons mental state more often than 5 years. People go through traumatic experiences that make them violent and aggressive and take innocent people's lives. They should in fact not have access to firearms. Also limit licences and ammunition for the same reason."
2. "Yearly reviewing of gun owners and licensing to make sure only responsible people own guns. Yearly payment for licenses as per car owners."
3. "Licencing period should be performed more frequently. Less than every five years."
4. "The problem with limits on licence periods is that every time you want to reapply for a licence it is a very long process that has to be done where I feel it is unnecessary because everything has already been done or else you couldn't have received your licence in the first place. Limit on licence periods is totally unnecessary."
5. "Regular testing (for shooting and psychometrics) and renewal (including references from neighbours) should be mandatory. We do it for far less dangerous things (e.g., Motor vehicle license disk and driver's license etc)."
6. "I feel that you shouldn't have to redo your license every 5 years. It should be a longer period."

Concern; No concern

1. "I'm in full support of this amendment, because currently government is failing to control firearm ownership."
2. "I understand ALOT of people are going to be very upset with this amendment as they will feel defenceless, however we NEED to eradicate guns from getting out onto the streets and into the hands of criminals. I will add though that those licences owners (such as farmers) will need EXTRA protection and our law enforcement entrance levels will need to be stricter and harder than ever before to accomplish as they will become the main targets for criminals to infiltrate in order to gain access and steal firearms."
3. "The less weapons we have on the streets the safer South Africans will, however criminals have to be disarmed as well."
4. "There need to be a plan to disarm gangs as well."



Of the “Not Fully” comments, the participants for the majority have rejected the proposed amendments to the Firearms Control Act. The main concern comes down to self-defence and the lack of trust in our law enforcement. It's apparent that the public are concerned by the number of illegal firearms in circulation amongst our societies. The public would like to know what proactive measures are being put in place to address this issue before implementing these amendments?

Any family or single person that depends on a firearm for security do not have an alternative option because criminals most often carry an illegal firearm whether it's a hi-jacking or a house robbery etc.

Some of the public in this category would like to see a gun less society but with the current corruption and lawlessness culture in South Africa, this will prove to be a challenge to implement.

Suggestions from the “Not fully” comments, include;

Concern; The Bill in its entirety

1. "There are more firearm in the hands of criminals then in the hands of legal firearm owners. now the government want to remove more and restrict the legal owners. It's just leading to a full breakdown of the system and heading to a criminal state as what happened in places like Zimbabwe when the firearms were removed from legal owners."
2. "Making it so difficult for people to obtain licence so they just give up and live without any means of self-protection."
3. "Why do we want to reduce the freedom of the law-abiding citizen. What is the real agenda... Why is government not doing anything like this extreme to stop or reduce illegal firearms. Crime is not under control. Police are not winning the battle. Citizens are not safe. Owning a firearm and knowing how to use it is the only thing keeping you safe when multiple attackers come at you 02h00 in the morning in your house. First eradicate illegal firearms before bothering law abiding citizens."
4. "The current riots are a confirmation if ever there was one reason that the public should be allowed to have firearms for self-protection after going through the required approval protocols. It's clear that the police and army can and do little to quell the masses who in most cases are armed with non-legal weapons The Government is focusing on law abiding citizens with licensed weapons instead of the criminals leaving us as sitting ducks. It's tragic when the public has to supply ammunition to the police station as was the case over the last few days."
5. "I as a South African have the Right to protect myself and my family in any which way or form, and unfortunately in the state South Africa is in now it's most imperative to be protected the best way possible."
6. "Criminals don't carry brooms either."
7. "This Bill takes away a citizens freedom of choice. It would be good to regulate sale & use of firearms & reduce licence renewal periods to every 5 years. It is important for people, esp those in rural areas or where telecommunication is sparse, to be able to defend themselves if necessary. A strict up to date register of all firearms must be kept."

Concern; Firearms for self defence

1. "I believe all capable people should be allowed to own a weapon if they are deemed competent. It is the illegal firearms that are a problem. Not the legal ones."
2. "Disarming law-abiding citizens who' s fundamental Human Rights are endangered and threatened each and every day is a blatant disregard for all this country is trying to achieve. The continued scourge on our society by criminals cannot go unchallenged and amending this Act will surely affect Police Officials capacity to carry official firearms both on and off duty! Where will the insanity end!!!!???"



3. "I work in remote areas where I need to protect myself and my work equipment, I'm isolated and have no cell connection and police close by."
4. "I am a woman and would like to try and protect myself during an attack."
5. "We live in a country with a high crime rate. I need my gun in order to protect myself. Our police service is not efficient. They will only get to the scene after the crime has been committed. I need to own a firearm for self-defence."
6. "Dear government, Please ensure that the weapons that you received a few years ago will be destroyed and NOT sold on to criminals! You cannot on the one hand have a broken organisation where individuals enrich themselves by these illegal means (and this being the result of even more crime!!) and on the other hand take away the means for self-defence from law abiding citizens. This is not only stupid, but also illogic as well. Please be a government that is there for all the people of South Africa and not only for a few. We have had this in the past and it did not turn out well, remember?"
7. "With the crime rate in SA so high, including home invasions, the public needs to feel safe and be able to protect themselves and their families. Otherwise, a situation would exist whereby the criminals will possess firearms and the innocent citizens will be easy pickings. The rest of the amendments are reasonable."

Concern; Other

1. "Remove all unlicensed firearms."
2. "Our police response is very slow, and half-hearted therefore people should have something to defend themselves with and guns are the answer as you don't need to get close to the attacker. The first-time licence period can be limited in order to assess the responsible behaviour of the gun holder. If he/ she is irresponsible then the licence can be rebooked timeously."
3. "Whilst there is control on individuals, better controls on imports should be included. Given current events, access to illegal firearms needs to be addressed as a key consideration."
4. "No problem with licenses for a limited period - we have after all to renew drivers' licenses. Sports shooters reload their own to be able to participate in the sport. The real issue is illegal weapons - make that a priority."
5. "People should be able to defend themselves from people breaking into their homes. Am suspicious of gov wanting to remove peoples means of defending their families."
6. "Until the government brings in more police and stronger efforts to limit the number of illegal firearms, they should leave the legal people who require firearms for the defence of their properties and families alone. I do agree that one firearm licence per person should be enough."
7. "I am against people/ public having weapons. However, I also have a concern that in the absence of competency from the government (incompetent, corrupt police force), self-defence must be allowed. I am also not sure that depriving the public of self-defence is constitutionally, correct?"

Concern; Reloading of ammunition

1. "As a registered dedicated hunter, we shoot hundreds of rounds a year for vermin control, practice etc. The cost would be extremely high, and accuracy would not be sufficient for over-the-counter rounds."
2. "Clause 55 - I do not agree with it being unlawful to reload ammunition. Reloading ammunition is a major part of sports shooting. A dedicated sports shooter should be allowed to reload ammunition. There should be limits on the amounts and types of ammunition that can be reloaded and there should be control over reloading equipment."
3. "I have invested in reloading equipment to make my shooting affordable and accurate. The devaluation of the Rand makes it financially nonviable to buy imported ammunition."
4. "We need to be able to make our own ammo. It is expensive. Of course, with training, and certified to make own ammo."



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5. "I have motivated my concerns in the attached document. In short
- I'm concerned about the removal of a self-defence category for licensing a firearm
 - I'm concerned about the reduced validity periods
 - I'm concerned about the limits in age for operating firearms
 - I'm concerned about the prohibition of reloading ammunition
 - I'm concerned about the limit on number of licensable firearms for dedicated hunting and sport shooting
 - I'm concerned with several other details as proposed
- Most importantly, I'm concerned about the drafters' view that crime is a result of firearm ownership by law-abiding citizens when, in fact, the problem lies very much in effective policing of crime. The Bill appears to position the State to avoid its responsibilities and pass it on to its law-abiding citizens. It's time these guys own up to the problem instead of bullying law-abiding people by ever-more restrictive legislation."

Concern; Limit of number of licenses

1. "In South African we got lot of un licence firearms so the safety service department must confiscate all unlicensed gun. When they done that, they can amend firearm Act."
2. "Restriction is good because this is a dangerous equipment. We do not want to see more killings in homes."
3. "You should be allowed a firearm for self-defence, but you need to be of sound mind."
4. "I don't see the need for multiple licenses unless you are a law enforcer. I do not see the reason why you should own multiple weapons unless it's for resale or you own a shooting range. Guns are weapons that should be banned ultimately however we live in an insane society so it only makes sense that you would want a gun for protection. However, that doesn't justify the multiple licenses."
5. "Allowing people, the freedom to own as many firearms as they can, provided they are mentally sound would be the best option."
6. "Limit the number of guns for use. If gun collector, then special permit. If for self-defence, then should be doing training on regular bases on own expense."
7. "Section 16 licenses to be limited to 3 license per calibre. Section 15 to be limited to 1 license per calibre."

Concern; Limit on license period

1. "Limiting the licence period will not serve any useful purpose when it comes to crime prevention. An initial training course on use of the firearm and safety precautions, as well as weapon handling, should be mandatory before a licence is issued, with a refresher course every 10 years with presenting of the firearm should help in monitoring the legal weapons that land on the black market."
2. "Why couldn't you give a ballistic round that linked you to your firearm. Its unique just as your DNA. I'm sure that it's efficient enough."
3. "As a dedicated sports shooter, I feel that 10 years validity is adequate. To reduce this in my opinion is ridiculous, SAPS cannot handle the current competency and license applications. I have first-hand knowledge of this as I have been waiting for 8 months for my competency certificate. It is absolutely crazy!"
4. "1. There is no need to limit the period of other licence holders. that can apply to the ones who are found not suitable to handle the licence due to court order."
5. "Those that are irresponsible or who use a firearm to commit crime should not be allowed to possess a firearm. Business owners should be able to protect themselves."

Concern; No concern

1. "I think that those who are opposed to this act are concerned about themselves and their own safety, which is understandable, but while personal safety is an issue, it does not address the bigger picture. The fact is that there are too many people with guns in this country and many of those guns end up in the hands of criminals who can use the current laws to acquire guns. If this act can bring the overall number of gun-owners down, then that is a good thing, but I don't know if it will do that. My opinion is that the laws around who can own guns should be stricter and that each applicant should be thoroughly vetted."



Of the “No I do not” comments, the public have raised many concerns with regard to the rejection of this proposed Bill. The crime rate is at an all-time high, even to the point where government officials also require bodyguards and stringent security measures to be able to travel around safely. The rest of the South African population need to be kept safe and until police members increase, corruption is eliminated, and rightful arrests of criminals have been made – the public do not reap any safety benefits from these amendments.

The participants feel that they will be “sold to the criminals” if they are disarmed because the law enforcement on crime has not been equally addressed. Many recognise that this will be taking away their constitutional right to safety because many have been let down in a time of need when police officers were unable to assist due to resource constraints. Private security also requires the ability to carry firearms to defend the local communities which should also be duly noted as part of the legislative requirements.

Other concerns have also been raised in relation to sport hunting. As a professional sport, instances exist where multiple type of firearms are required for different sporting categories which conflicts with these proposed amendments. The policy formation may not be biased and will need to ensure that this is catered for as the hunting/sporting industr

Suggestions from the “No I do not” comments, include;

Concern; The Bill in its entirety

1. “This bill is a step closer for the ANC to disarm the law-abiding gun owners in South Africa. History proves the 3 dictators who did this in their countries, massacred millions of civilians. Furthermore, the criminals with the help of their police and army counterparts, are running rife with stolen firearms and Nothing is done about that.”
2. “I am a Protea sport shooter. With the new bill I will not be able to shoot all the classes I participate in.”
3. “This is not addressing the problem and legal firearm owners are targeted instead of criminals with illegal firearms.”
4. “It is ridiculous to assume that removing firearms from legal holders will solve problems of GBV. The unrelated consequence will be that private citizens become even more vulnerable to everyday crimes such as house robbery, mugging and hijacking. These should be more adequately addressed in the criminal justice system with proven outcomes before the state suggests a removal of legal firearms from the hands of citizens. Importantly, the police and other law enforcement agencies should focus on removing illegal firearms from the hands of criminals and continue to destroy them until they no longer pose a threat to society.”
5. “The Bill is ill conceived and has not been done with the proper consultative process with all role players as is required. The removal of self-defence as a valid reason to own a firearm is preposterous in the 6th most deadly country in the world. “
6. “The bill in its entirety is irrational, one sided, communist orientated and not fitted for a country where crime is present not only amongst the unlawful citizens of the country but amongst a lot of law enforcing officials...even political office bearers. Now law-abiding citizens are targeted in order to make it easier for criminal elements to earn their so-called living at the cost of precious lives of law abiding and peaceful people of our beloved country...”
7. “To take away the right to own a firearm from a licences gun owner leaving thousands of unlicensed guns in the hands of gangsters is ludicrous.”
8. “I do hunt and like to shoot my game with different calibre rifle. I do not want to be limited with the amount of weapons I am allowed to possess.”



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9. "The Bill seems to want to remove a citizen's right to bear arms. There are so many restrictions that they are putting in place just to own a gun that this action will likely increase corruption in terms of how one owns a gun, to allowing the black market to make more money since people will resort to buying them illegally."
 10. "Licence the person not the firearm. Permits for firearms to maintain control. Much more streamlined approach."

Concern; Firearms for self defence

1. "This law will not do anything for to prevent criminals shooting innocent people, but it severely hampers normal citizens especially farmers!"
2. "Being in a situation where I was held at gunpoint, I felt hopeless. My life was at risk and the criminals do as their please. We live in a country where brutal and violent crimes are being committed. I feel as citizens of South Africa, we should have that human right to protect ourselves too. Why are systems always in favour of a criminal more than the innocent citizen? Why should we be at the end of the stick for crime and not be able to protect our lives?"
3. "It will be unsafe to disarm the communities and the residents of South Africa while the law enforcement has not enough capacity to protect all the residents of the country. There are continuous robberies and rapes in the households which the law enforcement is unable to prevent and control."
4. "Self-defence for single women and single parent is imperative. I should have the right to protect myself and my family and taking away the right to self-defence is opening the door for criminals to overpower me because they would still have guns they obtained illegally. Who is disarming them? It's not ideal to take a knife to a gun fight."
5. "South African citizens should have the right to protect themselves as the Government / SAPS are incapable to do so. Criminals with guns run this Country and killing unarmed citizens how is that fair. ..#keepourguns"
6. "Once all the legal guns have been taken away from law abiding citizens, we will be left defenceless! As it is, we have, we have one of the highest crime rates in the world and our police force will not be able to protect us."
7. "Government does not protect our people from crime. We pay taxes and receive no security protection benefits in return. The police force is incapable and incompetent at handling the crime. South Africa is a dangerous and violent place to live, and we have a right to protect and defend ourselves and our families from violent attacks. The number of farm murders this country has had and continues to have yet nothing is being done about it by Government. Therefore, people must be allowed to arm themselves for self-defence."
8. "I have a family consisting of 3 women my wife my 2 kids which are girls. These criminals don't have any remorse or feelings to attack kill or rape individuals. I have been a situation which was a attempted hijack and if I didn't have a firearm my entire family would have been dead."
9. "I have complied to all the laws and regulations during the time that I have owned a firearm. I am a businessman, travelling into and to all kinds of destinations in the country. The rate that which people are getting hijacked, ambushed or robbed on our roads day or night is alarming and without any way of defending myself against these criminals, is not acceptable. Furthermore, it leaves me and my family completely vulnerable, even in my own home, to criminals breaking into my only sanctuary. I have a constitutional and human right to be able to defend myself and my Family."

Concern; Other

1. "This corrupt sick, incompetent organisation called the ANC that laughingly calls itself a "government" are incapable of managing anything except corruption and stealing. One of the fastest growing industries in South Africa is the security industry. Why?"



2. "Limiting firearms for self-defence is wrong. Murders will not stop because licensed firearms is not around."
3. "The is lot of crime in South Africa, house breaking, and criminals is killing innocent families to get their assets. Police are useless not enough vehicles, and they get bribes and some work together with criminals therefore government can't risk our lives."
4. "My concerns are I need the best tool to protect my life and that of my family the exact same way Bheki Cele protects his life marching around with armed escorts wherever he goes and that is guns yes guns and I want it not to be a privilege but my constitutional right to bear arms for protection again tyrannical governments as ours and domestic and foreign terrorism along with the high crime in our country we need this to be gazetted in the firearms control act along with licence the person and register the firearm with no limit to owning firearms and ammunition..."
5. "Ulterior motives with this proposal. Land reclamation will be made easier."
6. "Bring the Commando system back before any negotiations."
7. "South African residence are faced with a challenge of home invasions by armed criminals. How can government take away the right for self-defence against these ruthless and brutal criminals? This law must not be amended, it must remain as it is. I'm actually contemplating owning a firearm because SA is not safe."
8. "Everything is a concern. Mostly, I love going to the shooting range to practise my shooting skills. With the new act, my hobby as a sport shooter will be limited. I would like to be able to go to shooting ranges in the future."

Concern; Reloading of ammunition

1. "I have just received my license for a .303 rifle and reloading is the only cost-effective way to keep shooting with this firearm on a regular basis. Affordable commercial ammunition is not always readily available."
2. "Reloading of ammunition allows a person to create ammunition that is more suitable for a person's firearm than store bought ammunition. By reloading ammunition for a specific firearm, you can make that firearm more accurate thus allowing the user of the firearm to perform a lot better in hunting and compete more competitively in sport shooting..."
3. "The reloading of ammunition is not illegal and does not contribute to illegal actions. The law already has a firm grip on the process of procuring ammunition and reloading equipment."
4. "Reloading is a much cheaper options for the shooting range. I can also get much better bullets if I reload myself."
5. "Hunting had always been a part of our culture and supports conservation so why limit it in any way as it also contributes to the economy."
6. "Commercial ammunition is just not accurate enough for proper shooting, both target and hunting."
7. "The South African police is not able to protect us, and I'm also farm owner and there is even less possible to protect us on our farm."
8. "It is ridiculous to take away the right to own a firearm in a country where we can't dare to walk alone in the streets. I am not supporting the new bill. Rather regulate ownership of firearms."
9. "We are long range hunters and do culling of our game. Reloading is important - no nearby places to buy ammunition and ammunition not always available and not so accurate over longer distances."

Concern; Limit of number of licenses

1. "As a hunter and collector, I have grave concerns regarding this proposed bill. What will happen to valuable collections if private Collectors are no longer allowed to keep them. Many items in private collections can be classed as heritage. Not being able to reload will also affect sport shooting considerably."
2. "I work in the security industry. The best form of security is self-defence. Nor the police or security companies will be there the moment a person becomes a victim because they need to be notified and cannot smell these events. While you are there in the moment and being able to defend yourself with lethal force when necessary."
3. "I am a field guide and a professional hunter. I have multiple firearms for work and sport. The new bill will directly hinder my ability to work and will be an encroachment of my rights."



4. "No data or analysed information exist that can confirm that it is in most cases licensed firearms that are being used in most crimes in South Africa. It therefore does not warrant a change to the current firearms bill as the purpose of amendments in law is to address a problem. In this case a problem does not exist, and it is purely a case of taking away rights to own, collect and reload for firearms, from law abiding and tax paying citizens."
5. "The Bill is not addressing the issue of crime in our Communities and Country and does not speak to the entire population but to the elite who will be the only ones affording the hiring of Private Security for protection while the disadvantaged are left vulnerable and defenceless."
6. "If you limit the licensing of legal firearms what is left for our defence? Why not focus and stay focused on the criminals that are in possession of illegal firearms, committing crimes...."
7. "Why focus on minor things like this in South Africa as there is bigger things to worry about or focus on, if a person have the correct training and obey the rules, why have or add a limit or take a right to live away to protect him or herself and their loved ones, this is a passion and many sport and hunt activities use different calibres #TISAPASSION# I STAND FOR FIREARMS FOR SELF DEFENCE, AND NO LIMITATIONS WITH DEDICATED STATUS!"

Concern; Limit on license period

1. "Any bureaucratic process is a long and painful process in South Africa. Not only do we need to sit (I mean stand) in long queues to renew our car licenses every year, and even longer queues for driver's licence renewals, and do I dare mention the queues at home affairs now we need to be in another queue for a gun licence renewal. Every time we wait in a queue it results in financial losses for ourselves as it is a day (or two) we can't work. It's just ridiculous and a waste of time and resources."
2. "No change needed the current Act is fine as is!"
3. "Attacks on innocent people happen every day in our country. Homes are broken into. Those able to protect themselves should be allowed as long as they are monitored."
4. "My concern about this bill is the fact that many law-abiding citizens will be disadvantaged and left to be in the hands of the lawlessness criminals who parade publicly with unlicensed guns in every corner of this country, the government should be stopped in doing what they are planning to do selling us to criminals."
5. "LEGAL FIREARM owners are responsible people. We do not have enough police to protect us. Just gauge from the looting in the last two weeks. If we give up our guns, we will be sitting ducks."
6. "Workload on the police will be extra if the licence term is only 5 years. If ammunition cannot be reloaded what is the use of renewing licences? Firearms' licences that got inherited and have sentimental or historical value should be valid for 10 years."

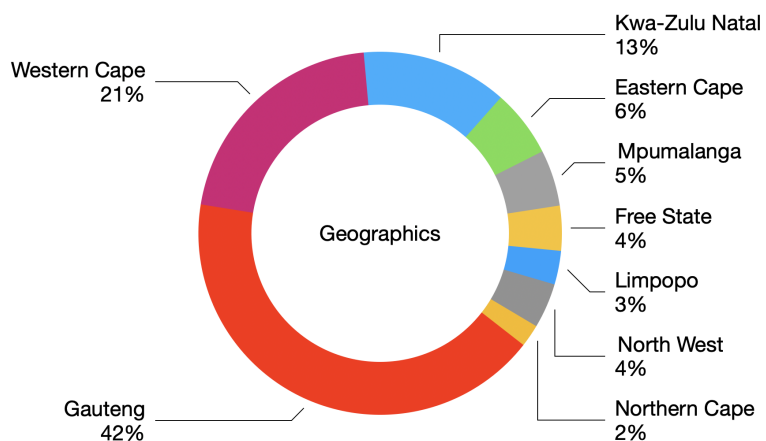
Concern; No concern

1. "Crime is out of control in South Africa, criminals are not afraid to commit crimes because our police department is grossly under resourced and incompetent as well. So, if our first line of defence can't protect our citizens then the citizens must protect themselves."
2. "If we had a police service it would be fine to go ahead with this bill."
3. "If I am attacked by a person wielding a weapon, does it make any difference if it is a knife or a gun? I must be allowed to protect my family and property, if it needs to be a gun, then so be it."
4. "This bill infringes on my constitutional right to protection and bodily integrity. it also limits my right of association and to choose which property I want to own."
5. "I do not have any concerns but the gov can't take away a citizen's right to defend themselves to hide the governments inefficiency to do what they must."



Demographics

Comments originated from all provinces with the greatest input arising from Gauteng, followed by Western Cape and KZN. Demographics can be further broken down into comment options (yes, no, not fully) and by top concern per region upon request, or view the Excel spreadsheet attached.



Thank you

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