



**Mark Speakman**  
Attorney General

Hon Peter McClellan AM KC  
Chairperson  
NSW Sentencing Council

sentencingcouncil@justice.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr McClellan

**Reference to the NSW Sentencing Council –  
sentencing for firearms, knives and other weapons offences**

The Sentencing Council is asked to conduct a review of sentencing for firearms, knives and other weapons offences (focusing on but not limited to offences involving the use or carrying of firearms, knives and other weapons), and make any recommendations for reform that it considers appropriate.

In undertaking this review, the Sentencing Council should:

1. provide sentencing statistics for convictions and penalty notices (where relevant) over a five-year period;
2. provide information on the characteristics of offenders, sentence type and length;
3. provide background information, including:
  - a. the key sentencing principles and reasoning employed by sentencing judges;
  - b. the mitigating subjective features of offenders; and
  - c. any other significant factors considered in sentencing decisions that explain how courts come to their final decision on sentence (which may be done using case-studies or collation of predominate themes across cases);
4. consider whether the standard non parole periods where identified remain appropriate;
5. consider whether offences for which penalty notices are available remain appropriate;
6. consider whether the maximum penalties for the offences are appropriate with reference to other jurisdictions;
7. consider whether any existing summary offences should be made indictable offences;
8. consider any other matter the Council considers relevant.

I look forward to the Sentencing Council's work and contribution to this important area of law.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Speakman**

4/11/22