

Parliament of the Province of the Western Cape
Second Session, Seventh Parliament
Question Paper No. 02 – 2025
Thursday, 8 May 2025

Oral Reply

16. Mr T C R Walters to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

With regard to the backlog at the SAPS Forensic Science Laboratory:

(a) How does the backlog affect active cases and (b) what steps is her Department taking to hold the South African Police Service to account to ensure a decrease in the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY WAS INFORMED AS FOLLOWS:

The reply of the South African Police Service (SAPS):

16. The backlog at the Forensic Science Laboratory and the consequential delay in finalising investigations may lead to the removal of cases from the court roll. The indefinite delay prolongs the trauma suffered by victims of crimes and delays justice. The Forensic Science Laboratory is however a national competency. I publicly appealed to the National Police Commissioner to prioritise rectifying this crisis. I advise the member to direct the question to the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service (SAPS).