

Ontario
Provincial
Police

Police
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**Crime Prevention and Community
Support Bureau
Bureau de la prévention du crime et du
soutien communautaire**

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File Reference: OPP-7000

March 18, 2025

Mr. Paul Sweet
Chair
Essex County OPP Detachment Board – North
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh ON N8N 1W9

Dear Mr. Sweet:

I am in receipt of your letter of February 19, 2025, addressed to Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Commissioner Thomas Carrique, regarding criminal record check processing times. As Commander of the Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau, I oversee all police record checks within OPP jurisdiction and am pleased to respond.

In June 2022, the OPP launched the centralized Online Police Record Check System in an effort to make it more convenient and accessible for the public to apply for a Police Record Check Certificate. The system is built upon an online application program provided by a third-party vendor. The information gathered is securely transmitted to the OPP Online Police Record Check Unit (OPRCU), who complete, store, and send the Police Record Check Certificate results directly to the applicant.

This system enables standardized turnaround times and ensures consistent application of policy/procedures for completing police record checks. While the OPRCU strives to complete all checks in a timely manner, many variables may contribute to delays. Once a check is initiated, various factors can affect the turnaround time. If there is an error or omission in the application, the OPRCU must reach out to the applicant. Additionally, a higher level of police record check might require more time to process as the scope of information that can be reviewed and potentially released, increases. Therefore, the time to analyze and complete increases as well.

Due to the size of the OPP's jurisdiction, the number of checks that the OPRCU receives far exceeds the number that smaller municipal police services may receive. On average the OPRCU receives 500 applications a day. We strive to achieve an average turnaround of four to five days; however, when we receive an influx at peak times throughout the year, these numbers can increase to 1,700 applications a day, which causes an increase in turnaround times. The surge in numbers is experienced by all police services who face similar delays in service delivery.

Mr. Paul Sweet
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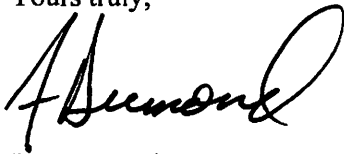
To ensure fairness and transparency to all, the OPP does not offer an expedited service for an additional fee. Checks are processed in the order they are received, and current turnaround times are published on the application website weekly.

While the service of providing Police Record Check Certificates is not a core policing function, we recognize the importance of providing timely service and the potential impact to the public that increased timelines can cause. I assure you that the OPRCU endeavours to provide a timely service to the members of the public in our jurisdiction to the best of our ability. We continuously explore ways to streamline and improve our processes including hiring on call members and holding periodic overtime blitzes in the unit.

Should you have any further questions, please contact the OPRCU directly at OPP.OPRC.Unit@opp.ca.

Thank you for your correspondence. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Dumond', written in a cursive style.

Jon Dumond
Chief Superintendent
Commander
Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau