

7 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 19 February 2018. Your request was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically requested:

- 1. How many people own firearms by Police region?*
- 2. How many suicides with firearms were there by Police region in the last year of record?*
- 3. How many people were killed with a firearm at the hands of a partner in the last year of record - by Police region?*
- 4. How many people were charged with threatening their partner with a firearm in the last year of record - by Police region?*
- 5. How many gun thefts were reported in the last year of record - by Police region?*

Question 2 has been transferred to another agency (Ministry of Justice – Coronial Services).

Questions 3 and 4 are being answered by another section of the New Zealand Police.

My responses to questions 1 and 5 are as follows.

- 1. How many people own firearms by Police region?*

It is not a requirement for firearms licence holders to register their firearms with Police, unless the firearm is a pistol, MSSA or a restricted weapon. Some licence holders maintain their firearms licence while not owning any firearms.

Therefore, the part of the question that relates to how many people own firearms, is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information is not held.

However, we can provide information on how many firearms holders currently have a firearm registered in the police system. Usually these will be restricted weapons, but some may be parts or weapons that were imported or registered voluntarily. There are 9,772 firearms licence holders who currently hold at least one weapon or firearm part as registered in the police system.

As requested, this is shown by Police District below. The Police District is the district of the address the firearms holder has provided as their home address. There are some instances where the address is not directly geocoded to a district and these are shown as Not Geocoded below. Police still have the address of each individual, but it would require substantial collation to attribute each one of the 236 to a district.

Police District of the Firearms Licence Holder Address	Firearms Licence Holders who have at least one weapon or part registered with police
NORTHLAND	536
WAITEMATA	787
AUCKLAND CITY	432
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	589
WAIKATO	753
BAY OF PLENTY	2,065
EASTERN	389
CENTRAL	863
WELLINGTON	755
TASMAN	550
CANTERBURY	1,030
SOUTHERN	880
Not Geocoded	236
Total	9,772

For context, there are 242,443 standard or dealer firearms licence holders as at 22 February 2018. This includes those people whose licence is pending renewal or being followed up by Police, but does not include people who have surrendered their licence or had it revoked.

Also, it cannot be assumed that all items that are required to be registered with Police are registered. This is because some A-category firearms have been converted to MSSAs and have not been subsequently registered, and some MSSAs acquired before the 1992 amendment may have also not been recorded. Such firearms continue to be held illegally.

5. How many gun thefts were reported in the last year of record - by Police region?

In 2017 calendar year, there have been 353 occurrences where firearms were reported as stolen. This is shown by Police District below.

Scene District	Number of occurrences where firearms were reported as stolen	Number of firearms reported as stolen in these occurrences
NORTHLAND	26	47
WAITEMATA	22	48
AUCKLAND CITY	16	47
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	28	71
WAIKATO	33	65
BAY OF PLENTY	55	138
EASTERN	20	59
CENTRAL	42	95
WELLINGTON	26	69
TASMAN	13	29
CANTERBURY	50	128
SOUTHERN	22	67
Total	353	863

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have a right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith

Acting Superintendent

Arms Act Service Delivery Group