

17 October 2018

Our reference: IR-01-18-5766

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 21 June 2018 made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, which asked:

- How many firearms have become unaccountable for – including those later recovered – while under the responsibility of New Zealand airports?
- Have airport armories [sic] been certified to meet the new police storage standards? If so, when were these inspections carried out and by whom?"

New Zealand Police received this request (which was forwarded to us by the Ministry of Transport) on 5 July 2018. I believe the questions you put are more relevant to the New Zealand Customs Service or to each individual airport authority.

I have interpreted your questions to refer to firearms brought into one of New Zealand's international airports by visitors or returning residents. The safe transfer of the firearm to the traveller is the responsibility of the airports. If the traveller does not have the required documentation, then the item would be seized by the New Zealand Customs.

Checks have been made with police staff at each airport in New Zealand which service international flights. These staff advise that they are not aware of instances where a firearm has gone missing while in possession of New Zealand Police.

At the point of installation of any firearm storage room or safe, Police ensure that all facilities for the storage of firearms are of a sufficient standard to deliver the intent of the Arms Act 1983. This is managed by each individual station.

Under section 3 of the Arms Act 1983, Police employees carrying or possessing firearms in the course of their duties do not require a firearms licence. Accordingly, the firearms licence conditions in regulation 19 of the Arms Regulation 1992 do not apply and no certification of firearms storage facilities exists. Therefore, your request for this information is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision.

Yours sincerely



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Police National Headquarters

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