

19 November 2018

Our Reference: IR-01-18-12064

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your email dated 21 September 2018, in relation to the new security guidance document published on the Police website on 17 September 2018.

Restricted weapons must be rendered inoperable (by removal of a vital part) and maintained in inoperable condition.¹⁰ The removed part must be stored in a separate container constructed to the same level of security.

*So we all need a second safe now?
My arms office thinks so.
Please say this is not the case.*

I responded to you on 24 September 2018, advising that the guidance document is written correctly for those that have restricted weapons and you followed up with these questions:

*'Written correctly' doesn't help.
Your arms officers can't answer so I need you to.
Specifically.
Please state for the record if those with restricted weapons now need a separate safe - of approved standard - for removed parts.
Please also detail in law where this is required.
We can find a requirement for parts being removed.
We can find a requirement for parts being stored in accordance with the act.
Where does this compel them to be stored separately?
I would rather hide a bolt in my strong room. Where it is secure.
Lastly - if I have parked my .22 rifle on C until the measuring rules are clarified - I don't need to remove the bolt to a separate safe? Only the items listed below?*

This guidance is specifically for restricted weapons as defined in the Schedule¹ of Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984, and are listed on the

¹ <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1984/0122/latest/whole.html#DLM95646>



page following this letter. In the Arms Act 1983, section 32(1)(b), supported by section 32(2), enables Police to set conditions for endorsements. In the Firearms Secure Storage Guidance document², restricted weapons are referenced due to additional security for public safety.

The sentence 'The removed part must be stored in a separate container constructed to the same level of security' was inserted by the working group after public submissions were received and was intended to reduce the likelihood of the restricted weapon being easily reassembled if the main secure storage facility was breached. On review, Police accepts that this sentence is not supported sufficiently in legislation and it will be changed indicating that securing the vital parts separately in a container to the same level of security is recommended best practice.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith
Acting Superintendent
Arms Act Service Delivery Group

² <http://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/firearms-secure-storage-guidance.pdf>



Weapons declared restricted weapons

1 Anti-tank projectors, and ammunition therefor.

2 Grenade dischargers, grenade launchers, and grenades containing explosives.

3 Incendiary grenades; including the type commonly known as a Molotov cocktail and consisting of—

(a) a container or containers, the only or principal contents of which is an inflammable liquid or mixture; and

(b) a means of ignition of the inflammable substance or mixture, whether that means is a wick, an explosive or other device, a fuse, or a chemical.

4 Machine carbines or guns, submachine carbines or guns, and machine pistols of any kind, including those operated by gas or compressed air.

4A Firearms and airguns that are capable of full automatic fire, excluding airguns that are designed for use in airsoft or paintball sports and are in the same configuration as when they were manufactured.

5 Mines of an explosive nature, of any kind whatsoever.

6 Mortars of military kinds, and ammunition therefor.

7 Rocket launchers and ammunition therefor.

8 Every firearm, weapon, and device designed for the purpose of discharging any lachrymatory, deleterious, or toxic gas, smoke, or other stupefying or overpowering thing capable of rendering any person either wholly or partially incapable of resistance (other than any device designed and intended solely for any medical, surgical, veterinary, scientific, agricultural, industrial, or other similar lawful purpose).

9 Any gas, substance, material, or thing specially intended or adapted for use in conjunction with any firearm, weapon, or device specified in clause 8.

