

16 November 2018

Our Reference: IR-01-18-12085

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your email dated 21 September 2018. You said:

We have had reports from concerned shooters that Police are demanding to search their A category firearms - if these were purchased via Trademe. The focus appears to be a check that A category semi auto rifles are being maintained in the condition in which they were purchased. Officers have then demanded to photograph the arms and record the serial numbers. When no breaches of law were discovered.

- 1. Is this a new policy?*
- 2. Who decided to institute this?*
- 3. Can shooters expect this to be an ongoing policy?*
- 4. What law - by specific section - is being used to compel enforcement of this policy?*
- 5. When was this policy begun?*
- 6. How many shooters have thus far been the subject of visits?*
- 7. What triggers such unannounced raids? Is it the purchase of more than a set number of rifles on Trademe?*

There has been no change in policy to firearms licence vetting procedures. Standard firearms licence (A-cat) holders are subject to a security check at application for a new licence (ie, every 10 years).

Additional checks may also be conducted when police identify that the licence holder may not be complying with the conditions of the licences (for example, to check security following a report of stolen firearms, or when the licence holder is charged with an offence, or involved in a family harm incident).

This request is refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information does not exist. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.



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

