

29 November 2018

Our Reference: IR-01-18-12368

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your email dated 26 September 2018. You requested:

1. *The number of firearms seized by police every year since 2008 in the Southern District, including 2018 to September, broken down by year, and by area (Otago-Lakes Central, Otago Coastal, and Southland).*
2. *The number of firearms seized by police every year since 2008 in the Southern District, including 2018 to September, in NZ as a whole, broken down by firearm type and location/area of seizure.*
3. *The number of firearms seized by police every year since 2008 in New Zealand, including 2018 to September, broken down by year, and by firearm type.*
4. *The number of firearm licence applications every year since 2008 up to September 2018 broken down by year in the Southern District.*
5. *The figures from question (4) broken down by police station in the Southern District.*
6. *The number of approved firearm licence applications every year since 2008 up to September 2018 broken down by year in the Southern District.*
7. *The figures from question (6) broken down by police station in the Southern District.*

In response to questions 1 and 2, provided below are the numbers of firearms seized from warrantless searches or searches under Sections 6 and 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012, between 1 Jan 2008 and 30 Sep 2018, by Area of Southern District and by firearm type.

Area Firearm Type - Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Otago Coastal</b>											
Airgun - handgun	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	4	0	1
Airgun - rifle	3	5	0	2	6	1	3	4	2	2	4
Handgun - pistol	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	3	1	0
Handgun - revolver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

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## Police National Headquarters

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Imitation - rifle	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Imitation - handgun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	1
Rifle - cut down	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	4
Rifle - full length	2	5	8	24	16	9	12	10	12	14	12
Shotgun - cut down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	6
Shotgun - full length	0	2	4	6	8	1	7	3	4	11	7
<b>Otago Lakes Central</b>											
Airgun - handgun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Airgun - rifle	7	0	2	2	2	3	0	3	5	0	1
Handgun - pistol	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handgun - revolver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imitation - rifle	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imitation - handgun	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rifle - cut down	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rifle - full length	5	11	12	28	21	1	7	8	14	6	8
Shotgun - cut down	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shotgun - full length	2	4	8	16	4	2	5	6	8	3	2
<b>Southland</b>											
Airgun - handgun	2	1	4	4	3	0	3	2	2	0	2
Airgun - rifle	2	2	12	12	7	11	6	4	8	5	3
Handgun - pistol	0	3	0	10	2	0	1	0	2	0	1
Handgun - revolver	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imitation - rifle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imitation - handgun	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	1
MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
Rifle - cut down	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	3	3	1	5
Rifle - full length	18	15	52	36	49	25	46	54	40	27	39
Shotgun - cut down	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	8	4	7
Shotgun - full length	10	6	20	28	26	12	31	32	22	24	20

In response to question 3, provided below are the numbers of firearms seized from warrantless searches or searches under Sections 6 and 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012, between 1 Jan 2008 and 30 Sep 2018, nationally, by firearm type.

Firearm Type - Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Airgun - handgun	64	87	130	124	112	78	68	70	61	71	48
Airgun - rifle	93	118	234	208	239	159	120	122	113	117	117
Handgun - pistol	22	21	36	68	58	38	48	43	78	69	61
Handgun - revolver	11	5	12	24	17	12	12	14	15	11	16
Imitation - handgun	26	30	44	46	44	20	18	29	24	20	25
Imitation - rifle	4	3	16	16	20	14	5	8	15	4	7



MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic	11	7	28	22	19	23	29	28	54	30	32
Rifle - cut down	11	16	26	38	26	21	41	44	100	87	52
Rifle - full length	271	335	804	794	911	512	505	504	618	569	509
Shotgun - cut down	11	24	28	44	54	63	69	83	116	127	113
Shotgun - full length	95	155	384	336	355	238	276	236	273	248	211

In response to questions 4 and 6, provided below are the numbers of licences applied for and granted in Southern District between 1 Jan 2008 and 30 Sep 2018. Please note that the same person may apply for a licence in multiple years (for example, visitor licences which expire after one year or the same person applying for dealer and standard licences). Additionally, a licence may have been granted, but later revoked or surrendered, therefore, the breakdown below is not necessarily the current status of licences. Because standard licences expire after 10 years, applications are not evenly spread throughout a ten-year cycle, with peaks and troughs that, in general, reflect the impact of the change from lifetime to ten year licences. In other words, most of the applicants in 2008 would have reapplied before their licence expired in 2018. As can be seen from the table below, it can be expected that the next peak in applications will occur in 2026. As this is a dynamic database, the numbers below will vary from the numbers you were provided in July).

Year of Licence Application Date	Licences Applied for in Southern	Licences Granted in Southern District
2008	1,127	1,109
2009	2,126	2,096
2010	1,726	1,712
2011	1,546	1,525
2012	1,574	1,550
2013	2,553	2,523
2014	4,203	4,166
2015	5,776	5,729
2016	6,790	6,740
2017	5,892	5,857
2018	2,815	2,797

Questions 5 and 7 are refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information does not exist – firearms licensing cases are assigned to Districts as they are managed by district staff, not those in police stations. You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision.

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Chris Scahill**  
National Manager: Response and Operations

