

26 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 18 February 2018. Your request was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically requested:

1. *The number of people who have applied for a firearms licence each year for the past five years. Figures broken down into successful and those denied licences.*
2. *How many people in New Zealand currently hold a valid firearms licence?*

My responses are as follows.

1. *The number of people who have applied for a firearms licence each year for the past five years. Figures broken down into successful and those denied licences.*

Shown below is the number of people by application year of each licence, by the status of the application. Note that a licence may have been granted, but later revoked or surrendered, therefore, the breakdown below is not necessarily the current status.

These figures are for all licences (standard, dealer, and visitor), and include those that are first time applications (ie, the person has not held a licence before) and those that are seeking a new application prior to an existing licence expiring. At licence level, it is possible to differentiate between the two types of application, but we cannot produce an aggregated number differentiating between first time applicants and others without substantial collation and research. The figures below do not include those people whose licences are pending approval.

The numbers below are of licence holders, not licences, as requested. Please note that the same person may apply for a licence in multiple years (for example, visitors), and therefore a total unique count of individuals is provided.

	Granted	Refused
2013	17,932	152
2014	30,182	199
2015	41,053	223
2016	44,219	276
2017	42,578	180
Unique Total	175,262	1,029

2. How many people in New Zealand currently hold a valid firearms licence?

As at 19 March 2018, there are 242,365 active firearms licence holders.

Active firearms licence holders are all current licence holders, as well as those people whose licence is being followed up by Police; but it does not include people who have surrendered their licence or had it revoked. Some individuals may have more than one licence (for example, standard and dealer) but the number provided is of the licence holders, as requested, not licences.

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