

01 May 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:

- *I'm looking to find out the total number of firearms licenses applied for, each year, from 2008 through to 2018. As well as the total number registered, each year, from 2008 through to 2018.*
- *I'd also like to find out where (ie. town/city) all current NZ firearms licenses are registered.*
- *As well as the ages and/or age brackets of all current NZ firearms licensees*

My responses are as follows.

- *I'm looking to find out the total number of firearms licenses applied for, each year, from 2008 through to 2018. As well as the total number registered, each year, from 2008 through to 2018.*

Shown below is the number of firearms licences by application year of each licence and by outcome 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. 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).

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. The figures below do not include those licences that are pending approval. The 2018 figure is 1 January 2018 to 9 April 2018, while all others are full calendar years.

Because standard licences expire after 10 years, there can be peaks and troughs in application numbers as the licence holders apply for new licences prior to the existing one expiring. With the number of licences due to expire in the next four years and assuming a constant number of first time licences, Police expect the figures for the next four years to be similar to those in the 2008-2011 period.

Year of Application	Granted	Refused
2008	14,742	123
2009	17,472	158
2010	13,476	149
2011	11,748	138
2012	12,311	142
2013	18,146	153
2014	30,340	199
2015	41,146	222
2016	44,351	274

2017	43,321	188
2018	7,898	18
Total	254,950	1,764

As at 12 April 2018, there are 246,164 active licences (standard, dealer, and visitor), which includes current licences, as well as those being followed up by Police; but it does not include surrendered or revoked licences.

- *I'd also like to find out where (ie. town/city) all current NZ firearms licenses are registered.*

As clarified in your email of 12 April 2018, the locations of licence holders are provided by police district and area, rather than town/city.

Licence Address District	Licence Address Area	Current Licence Holders
NORTHLAND	FAR NORTH AREA	5,626
NORTHLAND	WHANGAREI AREA	7,785
WAITEMATA	NORTH SHORE AREA	4,419
WAITEMATA	RODNEY AREA	6,920
WAITEMATA	WAITAKERE AREA	3,532
AUCKLAND CITY	AUCKLAND CENTRAL AREA	926
AUCKLAND CITY	AUCKLAND EAST AREA	3,002
AUCKLAND CITY	AUCKLAND WEST AREA	2,343
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	COUNTIES MANUKAU CENTRAL AREA	811
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	COUNTIES MANUKAU EAST AREA	2,902
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	COUNTIES MANUKAU SOUTH AREA	7,561
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	COUNTIES MANUKAU WEST AREA	638
WAIKATO	HAMILTON CITY AREA	5,957
WAIKATO	WAIKATO EAST AREA	7,724
WAIKATO	WAIKATO WEST AREA	9,144
BAY OF PLENTY	EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY AREA	4,297
BAY OF PLENTY	ROTORUA AREA	5,278
BAY OF PLENTY	TAUPO AREA	5,685
BAY OF PLENTY	WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY AREA	9,828
EASTERN	HAWKES BAY AREA	10,466
EASTERN	TAIRAWHITI AREA	5,167
CENTRAL	MANAWATU AREA	12,549
CENTRAL	TARANAKI AREA	7,516
CENTRAL	WHANGANUI AREA	6,591
WELLINGTON	HUTT VALLEY AREA	4,311
WELLINGTON	KAPITI-MANA AREA	3,172
WELLINGTON	WAIRARAPA AREA	4,499
WELLINGTON	WELLINGTON AREA	3,993
TASMAN	MARLBOROUGH AREA	5,950
TASMAN	NELSON BAYS AREA	8,588
TASMAN	WEST COAST AREA	4,196
CANTERBURY	CANTERBURY METRO AREA	12,140
CANTERBURY	CANTERBURY RURAL AREA	13,374
CANTERBURY	MID / SOUTH CANTERBURY AREA	10,196

SOUTHERN	OTAGO COASTAL AREA	12,079
SOUTHERN	OTAGO LAKES CENTRAL AREA	7,486
SOUTHERN	SOUTHLAND AREA	12,930
	Not Geocoded	6,583
	Total	246,164

The Police District of each licence holder is based on the address that the firearms licence holder has provided as their home address. There are some instances where the address is not directly geocoded to a district and these are shown as Not Geocoded. Police still have the address of each individual, but it would require substantial collation to attribute each one to a district. This Not Geocoded number also includes any individuals who are currently overseas but maintain their New Zealand firearms licence.

- *As well as the ages and/or age brackets of all current NZ firearms licensees*

There are 245,401 people who hold 246,164 licences. The age groups of all the current licence holders are shown in the table below.

Current Age Group	Licence Holders
16 - 19 years old	4,334
20 - 29 years old	28,625
30 - 39 years old	37,185
40 - 49 years old	44,918
50 - 59 years old	54,078
60 - 69 years old	47,211
70 - 79 years old	23,714
80+ years old	5,336
Total	245,401

It is likely that the 80+ figure is overstated, as the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationship Registrations Act 1995 does not enable Police to obtain automatic advice of deaths for the purpose of maintaining the Firearms Licence database in the absence of an Approved Information Sharing Agreement.

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.

For your information, Police is developing a process for proactive release of information, so the response to your request may be publicly released.

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith
Acting Superintendent
Arms Act Service Delivery Group