

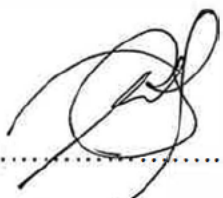
BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF POLICE			
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Routine The attached Cabinet paper is intended to be lodged by 10am Thursday 24 February 2022		
Title	Arms Act 1983: Release of discussion document for public consultation for regulations (shooting clubs and ranges)		
Date	1 February 2022	Ref	BR/22/04

Recommendations

Police recommends that the Minister of Police:

- a) **agree** to consult your colleagues on the attached draft Cabinet paper and discussion document for public consultation Yes/No
- b) **agree** to refer the final versions of the Cabinet paper and discussion document to the Cabinet Office by 10am on Thursday 24 February 2022 so that it may be considered by the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 2 March 2022. Yes/No

Minister's comments and signature


 6/2/2022
 Hon Poto Williams
 Minister of Police

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Arms Act 1983: Release of discussion document for public consultation for regulations (shooting clubs and ranges)

Purpose

1. The attached draft Cabinet paper and discussion document propose to make new regulations under the Arms Act 1983, for the approval of shooting clubs and certification of shooting ranges.

New regulations are required to support the amendments to the Arms Act 1983 (the Act), which come into force on 24 June 2022, relating to approval of shooting clubs and certification of shooting ranges.

This briefing provides a draft Cabinet paper and discussion document for public consultation for you to share with your Ministerial colleagues.

Following Ministerial consultation, we propose that the paper is considered by the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on Wednesday 2 March 2022.

This timing will allow the regulations to be finalised as close as possible to Part 6 of the Act coming into force on 24 June 2022

Background

2. Regulations are needed to implement certain amendments to the Arms Act 1983 (the Act), which come into force on 24 June 2022. The new provisions require approval of shooting clubs, and certification of shooting ranges, by the Commissioner of Police (the Commissioner).
3. Public consultation on the regulations is required to meet the Commissioner's statutory obligation to consult with those people affected or likely to be affected by the proposed changes. The consultation aims to give stakeholders an opportunity to understand the impacts of the proposals in the discussion document and seeks feedback to ensure the regulations are fit for purpose.
4. Police provided you with a draft of this discussion document prior to the summer break [IPR/21/350 refers]. The document has been developed further in response to additional feedback from internal subject matter experts and initial feedback from the Range Certification Engagement Group (RCEG), and Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF).

Overview of the proposals in the discussion document for public consultation

5. New regulations will cover:
 - a. information to be provided in an application to enable the Commissioner to approve a shooting club, including matters relating to membership, such as age restrictions, participation requirements, and club obligations to members;

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- b. conditions relating to sales and secure storage of firearms or ammunition by the club for the benefit of the club;
 - c. information to be included in club annual reports;
 - d. information to be included in an application for certification of a shooting range, including processes for renewal, cancellation, voluntary surrender of certification, and conditions of certification;
 - e. the contents of Range Standing Orders and other (specific) safety measures such as signage, inspections, and improvement notices;
 - f. fees for approval of clubs and certification of ranges.
6. The regulations will provide the basis for forms and operational processes.

Consultation

7. The Cabinet paper and discussion document have been consulted with Local Government New Zealand; Department of Conservation; Ministry of Justice; Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections; New Zealand Customs Service; Te Puni Kōkiri; the Treasury; the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; Ministry of Primary Industries; the New Zealand Defence Force; and Te Arawhiti. Feedback provided during this consultation has been reflected in amendments to the consultation document.
8. Your Arms Advisory Group (MAAG) has been provided an early copy of the discussion document. We will integrate their feedback alongside any feedback you receive from your Ministerial colleagues.
9. Police has also provided an overview of the proposals to FCAF, RCEG, and the Arms Engagement Group. No significant concerns have been raised at this stage. For these groups, and the MAAG, we will offer the opportunity to participate in workshops as part of the public consultation process. Members of these groups can also submit on the consultation document through the same channels open to the public.

Public communications

10. Subject to Cabinet approval, Police proposes you announce the release of the discussion document on 8 March 2022, immediately following consideration by Cabinet on 7 March. Police proposes a consultation period of six weeks, from 9 March to 20 April 2022. This consultation period will allow for the regulations to be finalised as close as possible to the Act's provisions coming into force on 24 June 2022.
11. Details of the six-week public consultation will be announced on the Police website.

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Proactive release

12. Police will provide your office with a package of proactive release material to enable the Cabinet paper and associated advice to be published within 30 working days of Cabinet decision.

Timing of implementation

13. As you are aware, the firearms policy work programme is extensive and has been affected by COVID-19 and by additional work such as responding to the emerging risks of blank-firing guns. As a consequence, it is likely the regulations will not be finalised until after 24 June 2022. However, Police has developed a plan to help minimise any impact of delay upon shooting clubs and ranges, noting they will have until June 2023 to make application for approval and certification. We will provide you with further details, as part of your Cabinet Committee material.

Next steps

14. We will provide you with talking points for use at the Committee meeting on 2 March 2022. Officials can be available to support you if required.
15. The attached Cabinet paper needs to be lodged with the Cabinet Office by 10am Thursday 24 February 2022 to be considered by the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 2 March 2022.



Jevon McSkimming

Deputy Commissioner: Service and Strategy

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