

PROACTIVE INFORMATION	
Timeline for establishing the firearms registry	
	Date of Response: 11 July 2022

Purpose

1. This paper updates you on the timeline for establishing the firearms registry. It gives background to the registry, and describes its place in the context of wider reform of firearms regulation.

- Police must establish a firearms registry to record details of licence-holders, licences, firearms and other items.
- Regulations are needed to do this.
- You will be briefed soon on a public discussion document on proposed regulations detailing how the registry will operate.
- The registry is part of a larger arms information system, which records information about licence-holders and firearms items, and enables the new firearms safety regulator to operate efficiently and effectively.

The registry is a new requirement

2. Amendments to the Arms Act 1983 require the Commissioner to establish a registry for the purposes of the Act.
3. The registry must be established by 24 June 2023, and will be implemented progressively through capturing data over the following five years.

The registry will record people, licensing, firearms and other items

4. The registry will provide a clear picture for the first time of all legal firearms and other key arms items in New Zealand, linked with licence-holders, and of transfers of them.
5. The registry will record details of:
 - 5.1. licence-holders,
 - 5.2. their licences, conditions and endorsements,
 - 5.3. their firearms, restricted weapons, prohibited magazines, major firearm parts, restricted airguns and pistol carbine conversion kits, and the location of these items.
 - 5.4. sales of ammunition by dealers and ammunition sellers,
 - 5.5. and possibly information on shooting clubs and shooting ranges.

6. The registry will allow firearms licence-holders, dealers and others to record details of their regulated items and the transfer of these items. The registry will track sale, supply, purchase, receipt, importation and exportation, manufacture, theft and loss or destruction of regulated items. When firearms are traded, licence-holders will be able to ensure that the vendor or the purchaser (as the case may be) is licensed and the firearm is recorded in the registry and is not stolen.
7. The registry will improve Police's enforcement capabilities, for instance by tracing the origin of firearms recovered from crime scenes and offenders.
8. Other agencies such as Customs and MFAT will be able to access the registry for their contribution to the regulatory system, for example Customs checking that items arriving at the border match permits issued, and MFAT in relation to export controls.

Regulations are needed to implement the registry

9. The Arms Act amendments contain high-level obligations relating to the registry. Regulations are needed to set out the details for implementing the registry.
10. Police is finalising a public discussion document on proposed regulations for the registry. You will be briefed on this on 22 July, and subject to your views and consultation with your ministerial colleagues on this document and a Cabinet paper on its release, it is proposed that these would be lodged with the Cabinet Office on 18 August for consideration by SWC on 24 August.
11. Public consultation on the proposed regulations is planned from 31 August 2022 to 5 October 2022.
12. Police will analyse the submissions and review the proposed regulations, and s. 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA [REDACTED]

The registry is part of a new arms information system

13. The new firearms safety regulator, a branded business unit within Police, is developing a new arms information system (AIS) to improve service delivery. The AIS is a secure system to store and manage information relating to firearms licence-holders, locations such as shooting ranges, firearms, major parts and ammunition.
14. The registry is part of the AIS. The AIS will also allow regulated parties to apply, renew and pay for licences and renewals (though paper-based forms will still be available as needed). It will also provide an electronic information and workflow system for the regulator to manage compliance and enforcement activities.
15. The AIS will come into operation progressively this year and in 2023. The registry will be established by June 2023. Police signed a contract in February 2022 with a software company, Objective, and development is under way. The

s. 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA

16. Appendix 1 depicts the work needed and timing for implementing the registry.
17. The registry, like all new Police computer systems, will follow a stringent certification and accreditation process to ensure that privacy protections and security meet or exceed Government standards.

Next steps

18. On 22 July we will send you a draft Cabinet paper with the public discussion document on proposed regulations for implementing the registry.
19. After your consideration and consultation with colleagues, we propose that the Cabinet paper and discussion document are lodged on 18 August for consideration by SWC on 24 August.
20. Public consultation will run until early October. s. 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA

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Appendix 1: Approach and timeline for developing the registry

s. 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA