

2 July 2018

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 1 June 2018. Your request was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically requested:

- *How many restricted category firearms have been seized from criminals in the last ten years?*
- *How many of those were not found in the system as having previous lawful owners?*

The firearms search and seizure database contains records of firearms seized from warrantless searches or searches under Sections 6 and 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. The seized firearms in this database are not recorded by endorsement category. The options available are Airgun - handgun, Airgun - rifle, Handgun - pistol, Handgun - revolver, MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic, Rifle - cut down, Rifle - full length, Shotgun - cut down, and Shotgun - full length.

Provided below is the number of seized firearms that were recorded as Handgun - pistol, Handgun - revolver, or MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic.


Year of seizure	Seized restricted firearms
2008	44
2009	33
2010	76
2011	114
2012	94
2013	73
2014	89
2015	85
2016	147
2017	104

The firearms that are seized are not necessarily stolen - they may be seized from the registered owner. The firearms search and seizure database does not hold records of whether the owner was located (if it was not from whom it was seized) and each record would have to be manually examined to determine the outcome. The answer to this question is refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

You have the right, under section 28 (3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith
Acting Superintendent
Arms Act Service Delivery Group