

2 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 12 June 2018. Your request was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically requested:

1. *The number of firearms seized by police every year since 2008. Please include a yearly breakdown of the figures.*
2. *If possible, please provide a breakdown on the figures from question 1 on the type of firearms seized. (Pistols, rifles, automatic weapons etc). Please include yearly figures since 2008.*
3. *Please provide regional breakdowns of the figures requested in questions 1 and 2.*
4. *The number of firearm licence applications every year since 2008. Please include a yearly breakdown of the figures.*
5. *The number of approved firearm licence applications every year since 2008. Please include a yearly breakdown of the figures.*

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.

1. Police have seized 12,688 firearms between 2008 and 2017. The table below shows the number of firearms seized, by year of seizure.

Year	Seized Firearms
2008	589
2009	768
2010	1,682
2011	1,658
2012	1,791
2013	1,144
2014	1,168
2015	1,143
2016	1,429
2017	1,296
Total	12,688

2. The table below shows the number of firearms seized, by year of seizure, and by firearm type.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Airgun - handgun	64	87	130	124	112	78	68	70	61	70
Airgun - rifle	93	118	234	208	239	159	120	122	113	116
Handgun - pistol	22	21	36	68	58	38	48	43	78	65

Handgun - revolver	11	5	12	24	17	12	12	14	15	11
MSSA	11	7	28	22	19	23	29	28	54	28
Rifle - cut down	11	16	26	38	26	21	41	44	100	84
Rifle - full length	271	335	804	794	911	512	505	503	619	557
Shotgun - cut down	11	24	28	44	54	63	69	83	116	121
Shotgun - full length	95	155	384	336	355	238	276	236	273	244
Total	589	768	1,682	1,658	1,791	1,144	1,168	1,143	1,429	1,296

3. The table below shows the number of firearms seized, by year of seizure, and by Police district.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Northland	52	88	98	48	101	65	91	76	77	61
Waitemata	54	64	174	86	148	91	76	74	85	98
Auckland City	22	43	128	82	70	45	69	58	76	26
Counties Manukau	34	52	116	172	104	120	92	114	71	97
Waikato	97	71	224	140	139	94	83	85	79	86
Bay of Plenty	50	99	136	270	220	118	102	113	167	158
Eastern	36	52	90	72	80	99	92	101	151	159
Central	69	86	220	128	285	129	87	148	152	129
Wellington	38	47	94	166	100	53	95	42	38	96
Tasman	40	55	108	98	157	102	104	39	72	75
Canterbury	32	51	136	172	178	101	113	127	268	194
Southern	57	56	122	176	150	71	129	140	146	106
Other	8	4	36	48	59	56	35	26	47	11
Total	589	768	1,682	1,658	1,791	1,144	1,168	1,143	1,429	1,296

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

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	Firearms licence applications
2008	14,865
2009	17,630
2010	13,625
2011	11,886
2012	12,453
2013	18,299
2014	30,539
2015	41,368
2016	44,625
2017	43,509

Total	248,799
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5. Shown below is the number of granted firearms licences by application year of each licence. 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).

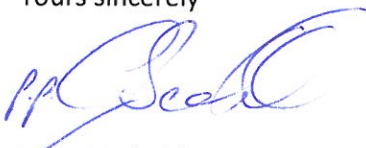
Year of Application	Granted firearms licences
2008	14,742
2009	17,472
2010	13,476
2011	11,748
2012	12,311
2013	18,146
2014	30,340
2015	41,146
2016	44,351
2017	43,321
Total	247,053

As at 14 June 2018, there are 246,952 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 trust you are satisfied with my response to your request. If not, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision.

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