

11 Jul 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-10517

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 8 April 2019. You asked:

My colleague [REDACTED] and I are seeking historical information about numbers of licensed firearms owners by Police District.

I'm writing to ask if you can please supply data from 2000 to the present, showing number of licensed firearms owners in each district by year.

If you have a further breakdown by licence endorsements, that information would be very welcome, but not essential, please.

I assume that by 'licensed firearms owners' you mean 'people who hold a firearms licence' because not all people who hold a firearms licence own firearms. Further, of those people who have a licence and hold firearms, they are not required to notify Police of all the firearms they hold.

A standard firearms licence is issued for 10 years. If a person wishes to continue holding a firearms licence, they must make a new application by the end of the first expiry date. It is impossible to calculate how many active licence holders there are at any past date. Police can only offer how many active licence holders there are now – 244,490 as at 13 June 2019. Of these, 7,197 hold an active endorsement.

Below is the number of people who hold an active standard firearms licence as at 13 June 2019, by case district (that is the district which deals with that licence holder, it is not necessarily the licence holder's current address district – some people maintain a New Zealand firearms licence while being overseas).

District	People who hold active standard firearms licence
Northland	13,435
Waitemata	15,307
Auckland City	6,462

Police National Headquarters

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Counties Manukau	12,319
Waikato	23,103
Bay of Plenty	25,349
Eastern	16,073
Central	27,057
Wellington	16,584
Tasman	19,764
Canterbury	36,212
Southern	32,683
Licensing	142
Total:	244,490

To help with the historical picture, I can offer the number of firearms licences and endorsements issued by Police by year of their first issue (so for example, if someone had their licence first issued in 1986, it will show as 1 against 1986 and not any year since). This information is in the attached Excel file.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised 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

Year of First Issue	AUCKLAND CITY	BAY OF PLENTY	CANTERBURY	CENTRAL	COUNTIES MANUKAU	EASTERN	SOUTHERN	TASMAN	WAIKATO	WAITEMATA	WELLINGTON	Licensing	Total
1984	4,126	10,752	11,501	7,888	3,333	4,804	7,183	4,797	3,917	6,523	5,559	4,258	74,641
1985	1,073	3,049	3,836	2,327	1,002	1,353	2,140	1,075	1,318	1,790	1,648	1,280	21,891
1986	236	515	507	347	247	247	365	202	249	373	344	308	3,940
1987	214	478	468	381	241	208	329	165	176	289	342	243	3,534
1988	190	422	401	332	175	198	298	186	189	284	303	252	3,230
1989	223	357	392	325	156	186	350	158	215	244	261	163	3,030
1990	240	302	411	297	146	247	352	160	146	197	219	191	2,999
1991	147	240	360	241	124	198	321	161	168	255	214	193	2,622
1992	111	173	249	172	87	115	210	85	151	182	145	124	1,804
1993	289	697	848	795	374	384	1,011	594	634	476	655	424	7,181
1994	692	2,792	3,684	2,843	1,236	1,610	3,914	2,816	2,760	1,613	2,090	1,570	27,620
1995	1,012	4,860	6,311	4,911	1,657	2,914	6,611	4,588	4,666	2,692	3,306	2,959	46,487
1996	1,126	5,448	9,282	5,775	2,204	3,644	7,696	4,580	4,606	2,733	3,628	2,623	53,345
1997	1,325	5,663	8,086	5,995	2,791	3,350	7,402	4,518	4,997	2,935	3,582	2,930	53,574
1998	671	2,191	2,744	2,269	971	1,561	3,197	1,450	1,755	1,147	1,187	1,717	20,860
1999	365	1,438	871	1,045	370	1,187	1,249	713	1,520	884	1,092	899	11,633
2000	426	576	638	617	788	410	613	423	518	671	473	462	6,615
2001	201	475	565	561	284	370	505	401	485	425	332	299	4,903
2002	261	614	680	679	351	393	654	434	576	456	410	360	5,868
2003	229	750	926	687	432	437	737	582	632	448	420	354	6,634
2004	237	969	1,312	1,290	366	448	785	557	673	479	405	345	7,866
2005	247	804	941	1,188	696	496	695	477	670	537	431	225	7,407
2006	249	837	1,191	828	450	520	1,048	588	748	544	536	366	7,905
2007	245	898	1,348	909	474	579	1,085	683	754	615	574	416	8,580
2008	305	930	1,356	1,064	474	620	1,348	636	891	618	672	463	9,377
2009	300	911	1,457	889	458	611	1,320	655	904	608	568	492	9,173
2010	260	939	1,357	896	440	573	1,231	549	715	625	570	502	8,657
2011	294	794	1,182	870	420	499	1,109	539	619	514	540	384	7,764
2012	290	890	1,286	810	429	504	1,032	477	607	566	619	394	7,904
2013	297	845	1,194	874	413	563	1,064	488	554	505	584	335	7,716
2014	258	820	1,181	956	505	481	1,027	593	605	601	648	377	8,052
2015	272	825	1,283	947	540	517	1,032	521	664	615	629	415	8,260
2016	267	940	1,281	883	482	479	1,083	545	655	594	649	312	8,170
2017	303	882	1,207	963	536	488	977	472	654	620	571	490	8,163
2018	214	834	1,258	828	454	495	906	587	677	495	499	607	7,854
2019 to 13 Jun	68	200	312	174	133	132	237	107	127	124	171	91	1,876
Total	17,263	55,110	71,906	52,856	24,239	31,821	61,116	36,562	40,246	33,299	34,894	27,823	487,135

Endorsement Type	First year of issue	NORTHLAND	WAIITEMATA	AUCKLAND CITY	COUNTIES MANUKAU	WAIKATO	BAY OF PLENTY	EASTERN	CENTRAL	WELLINGTON	TASMAN	CANTERBURY	SOUTHERN	Licensing
'B' Pistol Club	1984	1	4	8	5	3	9	4	7	10	2	8	4	1
'B' Pistol Club	1985	1	1		1		1		2	3		1		0
'B' Pistol Club	1986			1			1		1	1		2		0
'B' Pistol Club	1987								1	1			1	0
'B' Pistol Club	1988		2	1		1	1							1
'B' Pistol Club	1989		1	1	1				1	1		1	1	2
'B' Pistol Club	1990			1			1			2	1	1		1
'B' Pistol Club	1991		1						1			1		0
'B' Pistol Club	1993	42	75	44	54	43	89	57	79	94	65	85	88	3
'B' Pistol Club	1994	32	56	35	44	45	43	45	59	44	44	59	38	2
'B' Pistol Club	1995	16	19	13	11	11	24	14	9	23	17	32	17	1
'B' Pistol Club	1996	12	22	8	12	13	17	18	22	29	8	24	14	0
'B' Pistol Club	1997	16	20	8	18	9	6	15	11	12	16	22	19	0
'B' Pistol Club	1998	13	23	5	10	8	13	8	10	15	13	18	12	0
'B' Pistol Club	1999	7	21	10	13	10	8	13	7	7	13	19	6	1
'B' Pistol Club	2000	2	3	3	5	3	5	3	3	6	7	2	4	0
'B' Pistol Club	2001	5	4	4	2	2	4	3	2	4	3	6	5	0
'B' Pistol Club	2002	4	4	1	2	1	8	1	5	4	4	3	1	0
'B' Pistol Club	2003	8	14	9	18	8	25	6	23	20	13	30	11	0
'B' Pistol Club	2004	14	13	7	12	17	19	7	24	12	13	26	11	0
'B' Pistol Club	2005	15	20	6	17	18	11	5	17	18	13	23	13	0
'B' Pistol Club	2006	6	23	8	14	29	17	9	24	19	7	25	7	0
'B' Pistol Club	2007	10	21	17	19	13	20	15	24	20	9	33	14	0
'B' Pistol Club	2008	16	35	8	22	15	14	6	17	29	9	35	13	0
'B' Pistol Club	2009	20	25	10	29	21	14	13	28	22	3	31	20	1
'B' Pistol Club	2010	12	25	19	18	24	21	15	30	24	11	26	17	0
'B' Pistol Club	2011	20	22	16	19	21	21	8	26	25	14	27	27	0
'B' Pistol Club	2012	15	22	19	21	40	21	13	21	20	11	31	20	0
'B' Pistol Club	2013	10	21	26	34	43	41	12	26	30	21	36	26	0
'B' Pistol Club	2014	27	23	20	22	44	36	12	41	36	15	51	32	2
'B' Pistol Club	2015	14	41	25	41	29	34	14	39	24	22	74	29	0
'B' Pistol Club	2016	16	22	19	34	52	33	11	23	23	12	48	34	5
'B' Pistol Club	2017	13	17	15	34	26	37	6	32	27	17	43	29	1
'B' Pistol Club	2018	22	36	19	40	50	40	17	37	19	16	58	43	19
'B' Pistol Club	2019 to 13 Jun	10	16	3	15	18	24	3	5	13	2	13	11	2
'C' Collector - General	1984	1	9	19	6	8	12	8	9	24	8	15	4	7
'C' Collector - General	1985	1	2	3	1	2	1	1		3	2	2		2
'C' Collector - General	1986			1			1		1	1				0
'C' Collector - General	1987			1			1							0
'C' Collector - General	1988		1			1					1			0
'C' Collector - General	1989										1			0
'C' Collector - General	1991		1											0
'C' Collector - General	1992												1	0
'C' Collector - General	1993	99	119	63	78	129	118	78	143	114	109	147	176	3
'C' Collector - General	1994	51	92	50	46	81	69	64	107	75	101	108	83	0
'C' Collector - General	1995	31	23	18	10	16	18	13	15	23	23	38	27	0
'C' Collector - General	1996	11	12	6	9	17	11	19	22	17	12	26	19	0
'C' Collector - General	1997	20	26	8	10	16	12	16	11	18	17	20	12	1
'C' Collector - General	1998	5	8	1	8	10	13	7	11	8	6	11	13	0
'C' Collector - General	1999	9	15	6	7	8	7	7	6	6	8	6	6	0
'C' Collector - General	2000	1	5	3	1	5	1	3	2	4	3	2	5	0
'C' Collector - General	2001	3	5	4	2	2	3		1	2	4	1	3	0
'C' Collector - General	2002	2	5		5	3	5	2	7	4	3	4		0
'C' Collector - General	2003	8	5	3	9	18	12	5	10	14	4	33	9	1
'C' Collector - General	2004	10	12	6	7	7	16	12	11	12	10	28	10	0
'C' Collector - General	2005	12	7	8	6	10	5	2	9	6	3	13	5	0
'C' Collector - General	2006	6	5	3	7	5	7	8		5	4	6	8	0
'C' Collector - General	2007	11	6	4	8	6	7	11	10	8	3	11	9	0
'C' Collector - General	2008	8	13	5	5	11	4	3	8	13	6	10	9	0
'C' Collector - General	2009	18	12	3	5	5	5	16	16	17	4	18	12	0
'C' Collector - General	2010	13	22	6	5	13	6	6	10	19	4	7	7	0
'C' Collector - General	2011	18	7	5	8	13	7	6	8	10	2	6	11	1
'C' Collector - General	2012	9	7	7	16	4	3	4	7	7	5	9	6	0

'C' Collector - General	2013	12	14	7	15	12	8	9	19	16	3	11	10	0
'C' Collector - General	2014	22	23	11	11	5	12	10	25	20	13	19	17	0
'C' Collector - General	2015	17	25	10	11	9	12	4	35	13	7	23	15	1
'C' Collector - General	2016	18	10	12	4	11	16	8	18	15	6	14	19	0
'C' Collector - General	2017	13	9	9	12	8	8	4	22	13	9	8	14	0
'C' Collector - General	2018	12	16	6	9	8	7	7	16	9	8	19	18	0
'C' Collector - General	2019 to 13 Jun	6	1	1	7	3	5		2	2		1	1	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	1993			1										0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	1994		1											0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	1995											1		0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	1996								1	1				0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	1997												1	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2002					1								0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2003				1	2			1			3		0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2004	1	1			1	1	1	1	1		2	2	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2005	2	2		1		1	1	1	1		3	1	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2006		3		1	1	2		2	1		3	3	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2007		1		1	1	1	1		3	1	3	1	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2008	1				2	3		2		2	4		0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2009			1		1		1	1	1		3	1	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2010	1	3	1	1			1	2	2	1	4		0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2011	1		2	1	3	3		1	4		2		0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2012	1				1		1	2		3	1	2	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2013			1			2					5	2	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2014					2	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2015		1		1		2	1	3	3	1	2	2	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2016	2		1		2	2	1	1		1	3	4	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2017	1			1		1	2	2	2	3	3	1	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2018		2		1	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	0
'C' Collector - Memento/Heirloom	2019 to 13 Jun								1				1	0
'C' Collector - Museum	1994									1	1			0
'C' Collector - Museum	1995	1												0
'C' Collector - Museum	1997								1					0
'C' Collector - Museum	2000						1							0
'C' Collector - Museum	2003	1							1			2		0
'C' Collector - Museum	2004	1					2		1		1			0
'C' Collector - Museum	2005		1			2	1		1	1		2	2	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2006		1	4		2		1		2		2	1	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2007	1	1					1		1				0
'C' Collector - Museum	2008		1						1					0
'C' Collector - Museum	2009	1		1					1			2		0
'C' Collector - Museum	2010			1								1	1	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2011	1	1			1				1		1		0
'C' Collector - Museum	2012		1	1							1	5	4	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2013	1					2	1				1		0
'C' Collector - Museum	2014			1			1						1	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2015			1		1		1		4			1	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2016	2	1					1		1				0
'C' Collector - Museum	2017									2		2	2	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2018							1		1	2		2	0
'C' Collector - Museum	2019 to 13 Jun									1				0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	1996								1					0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	1999				1									0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2003	1	3			1				2	1	1		0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2004		3	1			2		2	5	3	2		0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2005			1						1				0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2006				2	1			1	1		2	1	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2007				1	2	1			3				0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2008		1			1			1	3			2	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2009		3						2	1			2	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2010		2		2					2	4	3	1	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2011			2	1	1						1	1	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2012		1		3			1			1	2		0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2013		2	1	1	1			1	4	2	1	2	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2014			1	2	1		1		3	4	2	2	1

'C' Collector - Theatrical	2015		3	2	3				2	2	1	2	2	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2016		5			3		1		4	2	2	3	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2017	1	3		3					2			3	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2018		2		2	2		2		1			1	0
'C' Collector - Theatrical	2019 to 13 Jun		1											0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	1993	158	173	99	119	193	201	97	220	175	147	182	285	4
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	1994	62	93	45	51	76	74	76	107	51	105	99	81	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	1995	41	33	15	16	25	26	20	20	25	37	49	33	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	1996	18	20	9	14	17	33	36	21	25	26	36	31	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	1997	27	30	13	18	16	19	24	19	18	25	25	25	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	1998	10	11	10	8	8	11	14	9	9	14	6	10	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	1999	6	17	5	12	7	12	11	7	6	12	9	4	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2000	3	6	4	4	4	5	2	4	4	1	2	4	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2001	5	4	3	1	1	5	3	2	3	2	1	2	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2002	6	6		5	3	8	3	13	9	3	3	1	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2003	10	8	2	16	18	30	7	13	19	8	41	12	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2004	10	17	7	6	10	33	11	17	20	13	21	15	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2005	13	13	8	11	11	18	2	15	9	9	13	9	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2006	7	13	6	13	13	17	7	19	11	6	8	9	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2007	8	20	13	10	11	12	15	13	14	10	14	23	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2008	15	22	6	11	7	10	2	12	17	15	22	12	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2009	30	41	12	19	16	30	19	34	34	18	55	35	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2010	30	65	25	37	37	21	20	38	39	24	51	38	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2011	21	19	20	15	12	22	9	20	12	17	18	23	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2012	12	22	13	20	20	18	12	19	18	9	19	20	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2013	13	27	21	29	30	38	12	33	32	16	28	26	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2014	35	141	75	81	84	134	39	96	110	90	184	165	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2015	18	58	31	25	25	41	7	113	37	28	63	35	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2016	17	33	28	32	49	52	13	31	38	20	50	27	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2017	15	41	19	42	25	38	13	43	33	18	44	44	0
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2018	18	48	13	40	47	37	21	37	27	30	60	51	1
'E' Military Style/Semi Automatic	2019 to 13 Jun	5	7	2	5	16	12	2	3	5	2	4	6	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	1994									1				0
'F' Dealer Restricted	1995											1		0
'F' Dealer Restricted	1996							2	1			2		0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2001			1										0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2002	1	2						1	4		1		0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2003	5	16	16	8	10	17	14	24	12	7	20	15	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2004	2	6		2	2	7	1	8	8	3	3	2	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2005	1	3	4	1	1		1	3	3	1	2	2	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2006	5	6	6	7	3	1		3	5	1	8	1	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2007	1	3	1	5	1	2	1	4	19	2	7	5	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2008		8	1	2	2	2		3	7	4		1	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2009	1	3	2	3		6	7	6	7	3	5		0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2010	4	3	4	2	1	6	3	4	2	5	6	3	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2011	2	9	7	4	1	2	1	4		1	3	8	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2012	1	9	1	5	4	3	2	2	5	1	13	1	1
'F' Dealer Restricted	2013	1	6	6	8	2	2	1	2	4	1	3	1	2
'F' Dealer Restricted	2014		4	4	9	1	6	3	5	18	4	1	7	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2015		5	3	7	6	3	1	5	9	2	6	4	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2016	1	4	2	4	3	4		11	7	1			0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2017	1	5	3	2	4	1	1	4	8	7	5	1	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2018		3	3	6	2	6	1	3	11	4	4	7	0
'F' Dealer Restricted	2019 to 13 Jun	1			2	1		3		1		2		0