

18 March 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-1195

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request received on 15 January 2019. Your questions, followed by my answer to each, are listed below.

1. *Between January 1 2018 and December 31 2018 (inclusive), how many firearms were reported stolen from licensed firearm holders? How many from licensed dealers? Please provide for each police district and what type of firearm.*

The table below shows firearms reported stolen between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2018 from people who hold a standard firearms licence.

District	Airgun (Pistol/ Rifle)	Antique Firearm/ Pistol	Paintball Gun	Imitation/ Replica Firearm	MSSA	Pistol	Rifle	Shotgun	Total
Northland	3	0	0	0	0	0	22	14	39
Waitemata	7	0	0	0	0	0	39	17	63
Auckland City	4	0	0	0	1	0	6	4	15
Counties Manukau	3	0	0	0	0	0	26	13	42
Waikato	7	0	0	1	0	0	38	22	68
Bay of Plenty	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	20	72
Eastern	7	1	0	0	1	1	44	19	73
Central	2	0	0	0	0	0	58	21	81
Wellington	6	0	0	6	0	0	41	8	61
Tasman	6	0	0	0	0	1	19	7	33
Canterbury	4	1	0	0	1	1	58	26	91
Southern	2	0	0	0	0	0	28	15	45
Total	51	2	0	7	3	3	431	186	683

The table below shows firearms reported stolen between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2018 from people who hold a dealer firearms licence.

District	Airgun (Pistol/ Rifle)	Antique Firearm/ Pistol	Paintball Gun	Imitation/ Replica Firearm	MSSA	Pistol	Rifle	Shotgun	Total
Northland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waitematā	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auckland City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Counties Manukau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Waikato	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Bay of Plenty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tasman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canterbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	7

2. *Between January 1 2018 and December 31 2018 (inclusive), how many firearms were reported stolen from unlicensed firearm holders and dealers? Please provide for each police district and what type of firearm.*

The table below shows firearms reported stolen between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2018 from people who do not hold a standard firearms licence. Please note that airguns and imitation firearms do not require a firearms licence.

District	Airgun (Pistol/ Rifle)	Antique Firearm/ Pistol	Paintball Gun	Imitation/ Replica Firearm	MSSA	Pistol	Rifle	Shotgun	Total
Northland	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Waitemata	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	11
Auckland City	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Counties Manukau	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	11
Waikato	13	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	18
Bay of Plenty	8	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	12
Eastern	16	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	20
Central	9	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	13
Wellington	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Tasman	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	6
Canterbury	7	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	17
Southern	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total	91	4	13	9	0	0	10	3	130

There is no such thing as an unlicensed dealer because a firearms dealer is someone who holds a dealer firearms licence.

3. *Between January 1 2018 and December 31 2018 (inclusive), how many firearms were seized by police? Please provide for each police district and what type of firearm.*

Between 1 Jan 2018 and 31 Dec 2018, police seized 1,598 firearms from warrantless searches or searches under Sections 6 and 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. The distribution by district and firearm type is shown in the table below.

District	Airgun	Imitation	Handgun	MSSA	Rifle	Shotgun	Total
Northland	11	0	1	4	28	30	74
Waitematā	13	2	16	3	87	40	161
Auckland City	19	8	13	1	26	16	83
Counties Manukau	14	5	23	3	57	38	140
Waikato	28	2	11	7	56	34	138
Bay of Plenty	13	1	9	0	76	32	131
Eastern	29	4	6	3	114	44	200
Central	21	1	10	5	65	46	148
Wellington	15	9	11	9	20	19	83
Tasman	13	5	7	1	42	17	85
Canterbury	29	5	9	2	91	61	197
Southern	14	2	2	2	86	52	158
Total	219	44	118	40	748	429	1,598

4. Between January 1 2018 and December 31 2018 (inclusive), how many firearms reported stolen were later recovered by police and returned to their owners?
Please provide for each police district and what type of firearm.

5. Of those firearms returned, what year were they reported missing?

When an item is stolen, it is linked to the offence as stolen and its status is set as stolen. When the item is later located, its status can be changed to "returned to owner". After that, it can change again, for example, to "surrendered", "destroyed", or "seized", and later it can revert to a general "information only" status. Therefore it is not possible, without looking up each individual item, to say whether an item had been returned to the owner after it was first found.

We can, however, say how many items that were linked as stolen and no longer have the status of stolen.

Based on question 5, I assume you mean "how many firearms were returned in 2018" rather than "how many firearms stolen in 2018 were returned". Between 1 Jan 2018 and 31 Dec 2018, 74 firearms previously reported stolen had their status changed from stolen to something else. This date is identified from when the occurrence was last updated.

These firearms are listed below by district and type. They were reported stolen between 2002 and 2018.

District	Airgun (Pistol/Rifle)	MSSA	Pistol	Rifle	Shotgun	Total
Northland	0	0	0	1	0	1
Waitematā	1	0	0	2	1	4
Auckland City	0	0	2	2	2	6
Counties Manukau	0	0	0	3	3	6
Waikato	1	0	0	1	4	6
Bay of Plenty	2	1	1	4	7	15
Eastern	0	0	0	8	2	10
Central	0	0	0	3	2	5
Wellington	0	0	0	2	3	5
Tasman	0	0	0	2	2	4
Canterbury	1	0	0	2	1	4
Southern	0	0	0	3	4	7
Total	5	1	3	33	31	73

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

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Arms Act Service Delivery Group