

22 July 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-13691

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 15 May 2019. You asked:

- 1. Since 1992 when the E Category classification for firearms was created, how many E Category firearms have been used in a criminal offence? Note: Please do not include those MSSA that are classified as an A Category firearm.*
- 2. Of the above criminal offences if any that involved the use of an E Category firearm, how many of those were committed by the registered E Category Licensed firearm owner?*
- 3. How many E Category firearms have been stolen since 1992?*
- 4. How many of those stolen E Category firearms have been proven to be used in the commission of a criminal offence?*

It is not possible to provide information on MSSAs used in criminal offences since 1992. This is because Police's current computer system holds occurrence records only from 2005. There are some exceptions to this where some historical records were entered retroactively. This question is partially refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information between 1992 and mostly up to 2005 does not exist.

Furthermore, it is only since 2017 that the Police computer system has recorded the firearm used in an offence in structured fields that enable the ready identification of the type of firearm (eg, rifle, shotgun). Therefore, to ascertain the type of firearm used in each firearms offence prior to 2017 would require a review of each individual case. This question is partially refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 as to provide an answer would take substantial collation and research to produce. In arriving at this decision, I have first considered whether fixing a charge and/or extending the time for response would enable the request to be granted.

Police National Headquarters

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You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

Where data has been entered in structured fields, it is provided below. Keep in mind that this is not the full extent of the information, as explained above.

Police structured data has records of 93 occurrences where the offence was a firearms offence (including Crimes Act and Arms Act offences) and the weapon was an MSSA. As mentioned above, these records have been entered from 2017. Of these 93 occurrences, an offender has been identified for 79 of them. In 19 of these 79 occurrences, the alleged offender had an active firearms licence at the time of offence. Of those 19 occurrences, four had an offender who held an active E endorsement at the time of the offence.

In response to your third question, New Zealand Police computer system has records of 54 MSSAs being reported stolen (in 35 occurrences that took place between 2001 and 2019). Five of these MSSAs are linked to offences other than the burglary or theft where they were reported stolen.

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
