

28 August 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-15605

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 5 June 2019. You asked:

- How many gun licences have been revoked since March 15, and how many have been surrendered? Can I please have this by district with a national total?
- How many gun licences were revoked and how many surrendered each year since 2014? Can I please have this by district with a national total?
- Also how many people who have reported they had illegal guns to hand in have been raided since March 15.

Between 15 March and 2 August 2019, 198 standard firearms licences (A-Cat) have been revoked and 799 standard firearms licences have been surrendered. The distribution by the address of the licence holder is shown below. Some people do not have a police district as their current address is overseas. This is not necessarily the current status of these licences – some may have been revoked and later reinstated.

Licence Holder's District	Revoked	Surrendered
Northland	16	43
Waitematā	13	28
Auckland City	8	17
Counties Manukau	4	34
Waikato	26	78
Bay of Plenty	25	100
Eastern	9	28
Central	17	82
Wellington	12	119
Tasman	6	56
Canterbury	29	122
Southern	32	65
Not Geocoded	1	27
Total	198	799

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## Police National Headquarters

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The same information for 2014-2019 is provided below. This includes the 15 March – 2 August 2019 data provided above.

Revoked standard firearms licences 1 Jan 2014 – 2 Aug 2019.

Licence holder's district	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Northland	47	49	56	50	56	28
Waitematā	20	26	13	18	33	19
Auckland City	17	10	10	8	5	9
Counties Manukau	24	38	20	20	14	9
Waikato	62	47	52	53	55	37
Bay of Plenty	57	78	57	62	55	31
Eastern	30	51	40	27	23	19
Central	42	74	56	61	58	36
Wellington	22	31	16	20	17	15
Tasman	64	33	38	33	36	7
Canterbury	54	41	52	57	78	44
Southern	79	95	65	81	94	61
Not Geocoded	8	6	5	2	5	2
Total	526	579	480	492	529	317


Surrendered standard firearms licences 1 Jan 2014 – 2 Aug 2019.

Licence holder's district	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Northland	112	197	244	196	131	71
Waitematā	141	192	183	155	84	40
Auckland City	71	90	80	59	76	33
Counties Manukau	158	192	198	158	88	52
Waikato	312	375	342	390	142	99
Bay of Plenty	419	676	507	555	232	137
Eastern	187	228	216	85	95	46
Central	381	457	416	382	152	106
Wellington	286	463	496	535	249	168
Tasman	251	331	313	310	93	73
Canterbury	404	698	679	734	232	176
Southern	280	374	371	407	151	98
Not Geocoded	236	416	323	200	70	38
Total	3,238	4,689	4,368	4,166	1,795	1,137

There is no such thing as an 'illegal firearm'. A firearm may be held illegally (ie, no licence or no endorsement), or it may be a prohibited firearm. "Prohibited firearm" is a term that came into effect in April 2019 and did not exist prior. I assume your third question meant "how many people have filled out firearms 'hand-in' notification on the Police website and later were visited by police officers using force to enter their residence".

This question is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information is not held – the notification data and any search and seizure data cannot be correlated (as explained below). Although Police does not hold the requested information, I hope the detailed explanation below will assist with your query. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

In accordance with Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992, Police check security of firearms licence holders. These security checks are generally done every time the licence is issued (10 years for standard firearms licence and every year for dealer licence). In addition to these, security checks are generally conducted every three years for firearms



licence holders who hold C (collector) endorsements or E (MSSA) endorsements, and every year for licence holders who hold B (pistol) endorsements. All E endorsements were revoked by legislation in April 2019. New P endorsements will also have yearly security checks. In most instances, these security checks are done by appointment after contact has been made with the licence holder. The Arms Act does not provide for enforced entry. When a forced entry is used, this is done under the Search and Surveillance Act 2012.

In addition to this, when police officers encounter firearms in the course of their normal duties, and they have concerns about these firearms, they have the option to seize the firearms under the provisions of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. Two provisions commonly used are sections 18 (warrantless searches associated with arms) and 6 (search warrant). These correspond to the five powers listed below that are selected when a firearm seizure is recorded.

1. Section 18(1) and (2) warrantless search of person and/or any thing in the person's possession or under their control (including a vehicle) and seizure of arms found, because that person is in breach of the Arms Act 1983;
2. Section 18(1) and (2) warrantless search of person and/or any thing in the person's possession or under their control (including a vehicle) and seizure of arms found, because as a result of that person's physical or mental condition they may kill or cause bodily injury;
3. Section 18(1) and (2) warrantless search of person and/or any thing in the person's possession or under their control (including a vehicle) and seizure of arms found, because under the Family Violence Act 2018 there is a protection order in force or there are grounds to make an application against the person for a protection order;
4. Section 18 (3) warrantless entry and search of any place or vehicle, and seizure of any arms found, because there are reasonable grounds to suspect there are arms in that place or vehicle:
  - in respect of which a category 3 or 4 offence, or offence against the Arms Act 1983 has been committed, or is being committed, or is about to be committed; or
  - that may be evidential material in relation to a category 3 or 4 offence or an offence against the Arms Act 1983
5. Section 6 entry, search and seizure powers for arms authorised by search warrant.

As part of our ongoing response to the March 15 attacks, Police are conducting additional visits to some firearms licence holders. These visits are carried out as a result of Police receiving information about concerning behaviour. Many of these are from members of the public who are being vigilant as we have asked them to be and have passed their concerns on to Police.

Some visits result in Police being satisfied that there is no risk to the public, and that is the end of the matter. Some may require further interventions, such as seizing firearms or arrests. The Police presence during these visits is based on a risk assessment and is a decision taken at District level.

The amnesty on possession of prohibited firearms, parts, and magazines will run until 20 December 2019. Police encourage any person in possession of a prohibited firearm to safely secure it and notify Police by completing the online form.

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The amnesty period includes the ability for firearms holders to anonymously hand in any firearms no questions asked. These firearms will be destroyed and are not eligible for buy-back.

Amnesty allows time to handover prohibited firearms even if a person no longer holds a valid firearms licence. People may also hand in a non-prohibited firearms if they no longer wish to have it in their possession.

During the amnesty period it is not an offence to possess firearms that are newly prohibited, but they cannot be used.

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



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Arms Act Service Delivery Group