

27 May 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-6384

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Dear ██████████

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 4 March 2019. You asked:

- *Under the Official Information Act, I'd like to know the average length of time it took for people to obtain a firearms license in 2017 and 2018. I'd also like to know the shortest, and longest, length of time it took for someone to get a license.*
- *Further to this, I'd like to know how many people applied for a license, and how many were accepted or declined, during 2017 and 2018.*
- *If the renewal of a license is different to obtaining a new license, I'd also like to know the average length of time it took for people to renew their license, and again, the shortest and longest length of time it took to renew, in 2017 and 2018.*

In 2017 and 2018, 67,098 standard firearms licence applications were processed by New Zealand Police; not all of these were granted: 359 were refused, while others were surrendered prior to completion of the process, cancelled, or are still in progress as at 26 April 2019.

Of the 64,612 firearms licences that were applied for and granted in 2017 and 2018, the average time between application and completion was 46 days, the shortest time was the same day, and the longest time was 711 days. This does not mean these licences are still current now – some may have been originally granted but later revoked, surrendered, or cancelled.

There is no difference in the Arms Act 1983 between renewal and new application – the licence holder needs to apply for a licence again before the ten year firearms licence expires.

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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