

12 June 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-7181

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your email dated 12 March 2019. You asked:

- *The number of firearms seized from visiting ships, by year, for the last ten years.*
- *The number of recovered stolen firearms that matched the serial numbers provided to police by shooting owners. By year, for the last ten years.*
- *The number of recovered firearms returned back to their owners who provided the serial numbers.*

The Firearms Search and Seizure database lets Police record seizures from Building, Person, or Vehicle. The Search and Surveillance Act 2012 states that a vehicle includes a motor vehicle, aircraft, train, ship, or bicycle. To obtain the information you requested, a further word search was required to narrow down vehicles searches that relate to ships.

A word search of vehicle searches was performed for words 'ship', 'vessel', 'boat', and 'yacht'. Of the identified reports of firearms search and seizure, a manual review was required to differentiate local boats or boats parked on land from moored ships. Four incidents were identified that resulted in firearms seizure off ships, one in 2011 and three in 2016. There is insufficient information to determine whether these were "visiting ships" or ships that travelled between different parts of New Zealand.

Year	Firearms seized
2009	0
2010	0
2011	1
2012	0
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0
2016	5
2017	0
2018	0
2019 to 30 March	0

---

### Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

The firearms that were reported as stolen and had a serial number recorded, and subsequently found, are listed by year below. Those that were returned to their owners are also listed. Additionally there are some that are now recorded as surrendered or destroyed – these are not shown as 'returned to their owners' even though they could have been returned at the time but subsequently surrendered.

Year	Firearms stolen and had serial number recorded and found	Firearms stolen, had serial number recorded, recovered and returned to owner
2010	24	14
2011	21	2
2012	12	2
2013	23	3
2014	23	6
2015	36	6
2016	59	22
2017	17	6
2018	25	7
2019 to 30 March	8	0

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



**Mike McIlraith**  
Acting Superintendent  
Arms Act Service Delivery Group