

14 June 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-7578

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 17 March 2019. You asked:

- *How many reports have you received about white supremacist/neo-nazi extremism in the past three years?*
- *How many reports have you received about other forms of extremism in the past three years?*
- *How many of the above reports related to persons who hold a firearms license? Please breakdown by license class.*
- *A break down of all staff involved in the granting and monitoring of firearms licenses by:*
 - o *Age*
 - o *Gender*
 - o *Ethnicity*
 - o *Sworn vs non-sworn*
 - o *Rank*
 - o *Time in force*

(please interpret "involved in granting and monitoring" as broadly as possible.)

There is no specific offence of extremism and reports of such are not recorded in Police system in structured fields. Therefore, questions about reports received by Police about white supremacist extremism, neo-nazi extremism, and other forms of extremism, and whether they were about firearms licence holders are refused in accordance with section 18(f) as the information could not be made available without substantial research and collation and diversion of police staff from their normal duties for the required length of time. 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. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

The question about demographics of staff involved in granting and monitoring of firearms licences has been interpreted as broadly as possible, per your request. Staff who work in firearms licensing and monitoring include firearms licensing officers, arms officers, and vetters. I have specifically excluded staff who work in firearms area but not licensing (for example, data entry staff for the current amnesty, or the project staff working on modernisation, restructure, or the new firearms safety programme). The remainder are 332 staff, 260 of which are employed on a casual basis and 32 employed for a fixed term. I have split these demographics by type of employment below.

Police National Headquarters

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Casual and Fixed Term staff:

- None of these staff are constabulary.
- 96 staff are female, average time working for Police four years, ranging from under a year to 21 years, average current age is 51 years, ranging from 20 to 86 years.
- 125 staff are male, average time working for Police seven years, ranging from under a year to 21 years, average age is 66 years, ranging from 22 to 89 years.

Note that casual staff (usually vettors) perform work on 'as required' basis, so their duration on Police records is not correlated to the number of days they worked.

Permanent staff:

- Two staff are constabulary (both male, one senior constable 20 years and one inspector 41 years at Police). Their ages are not included as they would be easily identifiable and this would breach their privacy.
- 39 staff are non-constabulary:
- 23 staff are female, average time at Police 14 years, ranging from 3 to 27 years, average current age 51 years, ranging from 22 to 63 years.
- 16 staff are male, average time at Police 18 years, ranging from 6 to 34 years, average current age 63 years, ranging from 51 to 73 years.

It should also be noted that the time at Police does not mean that each staff member worked that entire time in Firearms Licensing.

Ethnicity information is gathered on the basis that it will never be used to identify people. Therefore, a more generalised summary is included below.

Of the 332 staff, 114 have not stated their ethnicity in Police employment records, 218 staff have at least one ethnicity recorded (each person can select up to three). Of the 218 staff who have stated at least one ethnicity, 211 have identified as New Zealander, European, Australian, or British, 11 have identified as Maori, and 14 have stated other different ethnicities that have all been grouped together for the purposes of this response.

In addition to these staff, revocation decisions require constabulary input and decisions to revoke a licence are approved by commissioned officers. This can be any commissioned officer at Police.

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
