

5 June 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-7923

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 18 March 2019. You asked:

1. *Can you please give me a breakdown on the number of people currently holding a gun license (known as 'A license'?) and how many hold each endorsement on top of their license (B, C, E, D and F)?*
2. *Also, can you please tell me in the last calendar year, how many people applied for a gun license, how many were declined, and how many gun license holders were declined a B, C, E, D or F endorsement?*
3. *Can you please explain the role doctors/medical professionals may play in vetting firearms license/firearms endorsement applicants?*

*On the firearms license application form under 'What happens next', it says, "Police will carry out an initial background check relevant to whether you are a fit and proper person to possess firearms or airguns," and, "Police contact you to arrange an interview (during which we will also inspect your firearms security arrangements) after you complete the firearms practical training. We also interview your referees and complete any remaining enquiries," and, "Police make a decision to approve or refuse your firearms licence application and issue your firearms card."*

4. *During any of these steps, is the applicant, and the applicant's referees, directly asked if the applicant has any criminal, psychiatric or drug issues?*
5. *What happens if there is a disparity between the applicant and referee answers?*
6. *Who in the police makes the final decision on whether a firearms license is granted/declined, does the applicant have right of appeal?*

Response to Question 1: As at 2 May 2019, there are 244,425 people who hold an active standard firearms licence (this does not include visitor licences). Of these, 7,164 hold an additional active endorsement (B, C, or F). Some people hold multiple types of endorsement. Of these 7,164 endorsement holders, there are 4,238 people who hold an active B endorsement, 4,172 who hold one of the C endorsements (there are four types), and 552 people who hold an F endorsement. The E endorsement was repealed on 12 April 2019; there were 7,488 people who had it prior to the law change.

All people who hold a dealer licence, also hold a standard licence. There are 491 people who hold an active dealer licence.

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## **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)

Response to Question 2: There are 25,372 standard and dealer firearms licences that have an application date in 2018. This includes those licences where a person applied before a previous licence was going to expire and those where a person had never held a licence previously. To date, 157 of standard and 1 of dealer applications have been refused. Not all of the remainder have been granted, some were withdrawn or are still in progress. Of the ones that were granted, not all will still be active now as licences may have later been surrendered or revoked.

There are 2,049 endorsements that have an application date in 2018. This includes those endorsements where a person applied before a previous licence was going to expire and those where a person had never held that endorsement previously. To date, 1 C and 11 E endorsements have been refused. Not all of the remainder have been granted, some were withdrawn or are still in progress. Of the ones that were granted, not all will still be active now as endorsements may have later been surrendered or revoked, and all E endorsements have been repealed.

Response to Question 3: If it is appropriate, based on the interview of the applicant or their referees, Police will seek the applicant's written permission to obtain a report from their medical practitioner or specialist.

Response to Question 4: Yes, they are. There is a detailed questionnaire administered by the vetting officer or arms officer.

Response to Question 5: Police will investigate and resolve the discrepancy.

Response to Question 6: The decision is usually made by the local or District Arms Officer or manager of licensing for the district. These officers may, on occasion, refer the decision to their supervisor for decision, if the decision is contentious in some way. Dealer licences and endorsements for restricted firearms are usually approved by an Inspector in that area. In some districts, the District Commander may reserve these higher level licence decisions to themselves. The applicant has a right of appeal under section 62 of the Arms Act 1983.

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

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