

14 June 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-8022

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Dear ██████████

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 21 March 2019. You asked:

- *In each of the last five years, how many firearms have been confiscated in Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Taupo and Eastern Bay of Plenty districts?*
- *Of these, what types of firearms were confiscated?*
- *Where were these firearms usually confiscated from? (Usually found during drug raids, or are they confiscated from vehicles, or while other police work is being undertaken?)*
- *How many people in Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Taupo and Eastern Bay of Plenty districts have gun licences? And can we please have a breakdown of how many have which kind of gun licence such as "E"?*
- *How many people in each of these districts have had their gun licenses revoked in each of the last five years and why?*

In five calendar years 2014-2018, Police seized 683 firearms in Bay of Plenty under section 6 or 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. It would require a review of each individual file to summarise the circumstances leading to each event. However, the table below shows these by powers used which provide the general reason why the firearms were seized. The data is provided by Police Area and by year of seizure. The map of Bay of Plenty District is available here: <https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/about-us/structure/districts/bay-of-plenty-map.png>

These are the powers Police can exercise when seizing firearms:

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

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arms found, because under the Domestic Violence Act 1995 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.

Area/Year/Power	Airgun	Handgun	Imitation	MSSA	Rifle	Shotgun	Total
Eastern Bay of Plenty							
2014							
1					3	2	5
3					5	4	9
4	1	2			6	4	13
5					1	1	2
2015							
1					5	2	7
2					3	3	6
3					1		1
4	1				1	1	3
5					2		2
2016							
1					3	2	5
3					2	2	4
4					9	1	10
2017							
1					3		3
2	1				4		5
3	1				6	2	9
4		1			5	2	8
2018							
1	2	2			10	1	15
3					3		3
4			1		2	1	4
5					2	1	3
Rotorua							
2014							
1	1				2		3
2					5	3	8
3					4	1	5
4	7				1	1	9
5		1			1	4	6
2015							
1	1				1	2	4
2	1				2		3
3			1		6		7
4		1			2	1	4
5	3	2			4	5	14

2016							
1					11	4	15
2	2						2
4	2				4	1	7
5		1			10	10	21
2017							
1					5	7	12
3				1	6	1	8
4			1		7	1	9
5	2				11	6	19
2018							
1	2	2			3	5	12
4	2				6	2	10
5		3			3	6	12
Taupō							
2014							
1					5	4	9
3					1		1
4	1		1		4		6
5					1		1
2015							
1					8	2	10
3					2		2
4	2				7	1	10
5					2		2
2016							
1	2				3	2	7
4		1		1	5	3	10
5	2	1			6	3	12
2017							
1	2				4	2	8
2	2					3	5
4		1			2	3	6
5		1			5	2	8
2018							
1	2				10	5	17
3					5		5
4	1				4	1	6
Western Bay of Plenty							
2014							
1	2				9	2	13
2	1						1
3					1		1
4	1		1		6	2	10
5	1				1		2
2015							
1	1	1	1		4	5	12
2	1				3	3	7
3					2		2
4	4	1			4	3	12
5	1	1			2	3	7
2016							
1		1	1		16	5	23

2	2	1			7	9	19
3	2				4	4	10
4		1			10	4	15
5	1	1			3	3	8
2017							
1	1		2	1	11	7	22
2					6	3	9
3	1				1		2
4	2	1		1	11	4	19
5				2	6	5	13
2018							
1	2	1			7	3	13
2	1				10	3	14
3	1				6		7
4		1			5	3	9
5						1	1
Total	68	29	9	6	379	192	683

As at 20 May 2019, there are 25,450 people in Bay of Plenty District who hold an active firearms licence, dealer licence, or a visitor firearms licence. E is a type of endorsement that can be applied to a firearms licence (also known as standard firearms licence or A-Cat licence), but it was revoked by legislation in April 2019. The other types of endorsements are B (pistol), C (collector), and F (dealer employee). A new P endorsement will apply to those who achieve an exemption to possess prohibited firearms (includes MSSAs, certain semi-automatics, and other prohibited items). The same person may hold multiple endorsements on their standard firearms licence, and all people who hold a dealer licence also hold a standard firearms licence. Therefore, the tables below include unique total to account for people who hold multiple endorsements/licences. The Area is based off the address the licence holder has provided to Police. Some people maintain a New Zealand firearms licence while living overseas, these people are not included below.

Licence/Endorsement Type	Eastern Bay of Plenty	Rotorua	Taupō	Western Bay of Plenty	Unique Total (People):
'A' Standard	4,376	5,295	5,715	9,989	25,375
'B' Pistol Club	43	88	92	187	410
'C' Collector	24	90	71	108	293
'F' Dealer Restricted	6	20	11	12	49
'D' Default Dealer	2	14	12	8	36
'V' Visitors	4	36	29	12	80
'B' Pistol Club	0	2	6	0	8
Unique Total (People):	4,380	5,330	5,743	9,998	25,450

Provided in the table below is the number of licences that were revoked in the Bay of Plenty District by year. The District used here is where the case was assigned to at the time of revocation. This is because the licence holder's address at the time of revocation may not be the same as the address last recorded for them in the Police systems. Firearms licensing is managed by a team with District wide responsibility, so the activities cannot be split down to Area level.

Calendar Year	Licences revoked
2014	59
2015	76

2016	57
2017	60
2018	54

Please note, this does not reflect the licence current status, just that it was revoked in the given year. It may have since been re-instated. It would require a review of each individual file to summarise the reasons for each revocation.

Your questions requesting reasons for seizure and reasons for revocation are refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 as this will take substantial collation and research to produce. 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.

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