

4 August 2020

Our Reference: IR-01-20-17383

██████████
Email: ██████████

Tēnā koe ██████████

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 24 June 2020. You wrote:

I hear allegations of firearms being stolen from Licensed Owners.

Please can you inform me (with reference to the OIA) about when and how often firearms have been stolen from licensed owners (without disclosing the personal details of course).

Please also inform me of how often these thefts have been investigated and this has resulted in the stolen property being returned to its rightful owners.

Thanks very much for this information.

By licensed owners, I assume you mean firearms licence holders.

We have previously answered this request and the responses are published on the Police website <https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/ir-01-18-32.pdf> and <https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/ir-01-19-1195.pdf>.

Therefore, for this request, the response relates only to firearms reported stolen after 2018. The table below shows the number of firearms reported stolen between 1 Jan 2019 and 8 Jul 2020, by month, and by whether the victims had a firearms licence. Some firearms, such as air guns, do not require a firearms licence when possessed by an adult.

Number of firearms stolen				
Month	Victim has licence	Victim - No licence	Victim - No licence but not required	Total
January 2019	81		13	94
February 2019	36		8	44
March 2019	27		5	32
April 2019	59	4	3	66

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May 2019	43		7	50
June 2019	55		15	70
July 2019	61	3	8	72
August 2019	65		14	79
September 2019	71	6	5	82
October 2019	49	7	7	63
November 2019	48	2	5	55
December 2019	51	7	2	60
January 2020	46		4	50
February 2020	83		4	87
March 2020	41		6	47
April 2020	8		3	11
May 2020	29		3	32
June 2020	23		3	26
July 2020	8			8
Total	884	29	115	1,028

All thefts and burglary reports get investigated to the extent that is possible with the available lines of enquiry.

When an item is stolen, it is linked to the offence as stolen and its status is set as stolen. When the item is later located, its status can be changed to "returned to owner". After that, it can change again, for example, to "surrendered", "destroyed", or "seized", and later it can revert to a general "information only" status. Therefore it is not possible, without looking up each individual item, to say whether an item had been returned to the owner after it was first found. We can, however, say how many items that were linked as stolen and no longer have the status of stolen. Of the 1,028 items above, 41 are no longer shown as "stolen". In some instances, victims do not provide complete details of their stolen firearms (ie, make/model, serial number) which makes reuniting them with any located firearms difficult for Police.

For your information, Police has 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