

IR-01-22-20942

29 August 2022

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### ***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 18 July 2022. You wrote:

*I am seeking to understand the extent of delays to the relicensing of those holding a New Zealand Firearms License.*

*For each existing firearms license holder who has applied since 1 January 2020 to have their firearms license renewed, could you please advise:*

- 1. The date their re-licensing application was received,*
- 2. The date their license expired,*
- 3. Whether their re-license was: Reissued, Revoked/Declined or Still Being Processed, and*
- 4. The date their firearm license was re-issued.*

Between 1 January 2020 and 31 July 2022, New Zealand Police received 29,840 applications for a renewal of a standard firearms licence.

Of these, 23,370 are now active (ie, they have been renewed), 554 were refused, cancelled, or surrendered, 101 are now suspended or revoked (they may have been initially renewed but revoked later), and 5,815 are still in progress.

It is not possible to identify the previous expiry date after a licence application has been completed as the new expiry date overwrites the previous expiry date in Police's firearms licensing system.

In June 2022, Police added a new field to the computer system indicating when the applicant has completed all the required parts of the application and Police can begin processing the application. This was done because in the past, Police had to wait for the

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### **Police National Headquarters**

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applicant to complete the Firearms Safety Course or to provide referee information or to provide some parts of the application that were incomplete, but the application date was recorded as when they first submitted the form and paid the fee. The new "ready for processing" date better reflects the date when Police is able to begin processing the full application.

The table below shows the number of licences that were applied for between 1 January 2020 and 31 July 2022 and are now active, by month of their application date (or ready for processing date as described above) and time it took to process the renewal.

*Table 1. Active licences that were applied for between 1 January 2020 and 31 July 2022, by month and time it took to process the renewal.*

Application month	Within 4 months	5-8 months	9-12 months	13-18 months	19 months or longer
January 2020	635	379	137	115	1
February 2020	392	436	225	90	4
March 2020	365	430	313	129	7
April 2020	63	43	31	17	
May 2020	475	268	197	18	2
June 2020	772	453	343	11	3
July 2020	603	418	256	18	8
August 2020	480	338	118	24	4
September 2020	531	393	103	66	16
October 2020	489	324	82	70	12
November 2020	313	263	117	83	17
December 2020	187	238	148	102	7
January 2021	296	175	107	66	
February 2021	370	164	86	46	
March 2021	527	153	113	37	
April 2021	294	131	67	20	
May 2021	554	167	88	16	
June 2021	521	160	92	6	
July 2021	612	171	88		
August 2021	422	157	43		
September 2021	408	112	40		
October 2021	574	164	10		
November 2021	563	213			

December 2021	522	114
January 2022	389	35
February 2022	518	67
March 2022	843	1
April 2022	417	
May 2022	292	
June 2022	120	
July 2022	37	

Of the licences that are currently in progress, 816 are waiting on the applicant (for example, not all information was provided or suitable referees have not yet been nominated) and 4,999 are being processed by New Zealand Police. The 4,999 applications are shown by the month they began being processed below.

*Table 2. Standard firearms licence renewal applications being processed by Police, by month they began being processed.*

Month Police Began Processing Application	Renewal Applications for a Standard Firearms Licence in progress as at 3 August 2022
July 2020	1
August 2020	0
September 2020	0
October 2020	0
November 2020	2
December 2020	5
January 2021	9
February 2021	11
March 2021	16
April 2021	10
May 2021	37
June 2021	56
July 2021	88
August 2021	72
September 2021	82
October 2021	75
November 2021	370

December 2021	154
January 2022	124
February 2022	403
March 2022	1,286
April 2022	454
May 2022	524
June 2022	458
July 2022	700
August 2022	62
Total	4,999

You may be interested in firearms-related data that Police publishes quarterly  
<https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/firearms-data>

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:  
<https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms-and-safety/firearms-information-responses>

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Mike McIlraith**  
Director Partnerships  
Arms Safety and Control