

IR-01-22-20016

13 September 2022

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Tēnā koe ■■■■

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 10 July 2022. You wrote:

I would like to request copies of all statistics showing the number and types of firearms being used in crimes, the number of firearm related offences being committed and the number of firearms being seized by police over the last six years - preferably broken down by month.

Police considers firearms-related offences to be any offences in the Arms Act 1983 or any other offences that specify a firearm was involved (eg, homicide with a firearm). However, as you specified you are interested in offences where a "firearm was used", I have limited this response to only offences that specify a firearm was involved and a small selection of Arms Act 1983 offences that pertain to a firearm being present (eg, unlawfully carry firearm or possess firearm without a licence). The descriptions of the offences considered in this response are appended at the end of this letter.

In the spreadsheet included with this letter, there are two tabs. One is the number of firearms-related offences by firearm type and the other is number of firearms seized under section 6 or section 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. Both tables are listed by month, between 1 August 2016 and 31 July 2022.

The data for firearms-related offences is further divided into two tables - data between 1 August 2016 and 26 March 2017 and between 27 March 2017 and 31 July 2022. This is because the weapon options in the Police computer system were different before and after 27 March 2017. Data before and after 27 March 2017 should not be compared due to changes in recording practice from 27 March 2017 onwards.

One offence may have multiple firearm types and therefore the figures within one year should not be added manually. A unique total count of offences for each year is provided in the table.

Police National Headquarters

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For ease of reference, the totals by year are provided in the three tables below.

Table 1. Firearms-related offences by firearm type, 1 August 2016 - 26 March 2017.

Calendar year \ Firearm type	Airifle, Airpistol, etc.	Pistol, Automatic, Gasgun	Replica of all Types	Rifle all Calibres	Shotguns	Firearm (Not further specified)	Total by Year
2016 from 1 Aug	90	48	4	129	111	74	456
2017 to 26 Mar	42	23	8	77	54	39	243
Total by Firearm Type	132	71	12	206	165	113	699

Table 2. Firearms-related offences by firearm type, 27 March 2017 - 30 July 2022.

Calendar year \ Firearm type	Airgun	Military Style Semi- Automatic Rifle	Pistol	Replica	Rifle	Shotgun	Firearm (Not further specified)	Total by Year
2017 from 27 Mar	227	32	276	54	486	395	1,045	2,489
2018	250	37	349	69	650	558	1,485	3,360
2019	253	47	469	91	728	636	1,852	4,032
2020	296	54	523	110	856	714	2,076	4,576
2021	286	52	457	64	694	643	2,095	4,248
2022 to 30 Jul	194	40	228	52	352	369	1,241	2,446
Total by Firearm Type	1,506	262	2,302	440	3,766	3,315	9,794	21,151

Table 3. Firearms seized under s6 or s18 of the Search & Surveillance Act 2012 between 1 August 2016 and 30 July 2022.

Firearm Type \ Calendar Year	2016 from 1 Aug	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 to 30 Jul	Total by Firearm Type
Airgun - handgun	26	71	67	80	74	60	52	430
Airgun - rifle	44	117	158	221	226	189	97	1052
Handgun - pistol	33	69	96	85	137	127	43	590
Handgun - revolver	4	11	24	17	32	52	11	151
Imitation - handgun	10	20	33	48	45	60	24	240
Imitation - rifle	4	4	11	20	4	13	7	63
MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic	14	30	40	21	12			117
Prohibited rifle				21	44	29	12	106

Prohibited shotgun				5	8	9	6	28
Rifle - cut down	24	87	80	111	128	101	52	583
Rifle - full length	216	569	679	697	702	603	305	3,771
Shotgun - cut down	43	127	143	132	169	156	72	842
Shotgun - full length	101	248	295	332	315	257	141	1,689
Total by Year	519	1,353	1,626	1,790	1,896	1,656	822	9,662

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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 Dave Greig
Director Capability

Table 4. Offences with a firearm included in the scope of this response.

Offences with a firearm
1111 - MURDERS (FIREARM)
1121 - ATTEMPTS TO MURDER (FIREARM)
1131 - MANSLAUGHTER (FIREARM; LEGAL DUTY)
1132 - MANSLAUGHTER (FIREARM; NO LEGAL DUTY)
1141 - INFANTICIDE (FIREARM)
1311 - AGGRAVATED ROBBERY (CAUSE GBH) FIREARM
1314 - AGGRAVATED ROBBERY (FIREARM)
1331 - ASSAULTS WITH INTENT TO ROB (FIREARM)
1341 - COMPELS EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS (FIREARM)
1411 - WOUNDS INTENT TO GBH (FIREARM)
1414 - WOUNDS ETC. INTENT TO INJURE/RECKLESS DISREGARD (FIREARM)
1421 - INJURES INTENT TO GBH (FIREARM)
1424 - INJURES INTENT TO INJURE/RECKLESS DISREGARD (FIREARM)
1431 - AGGRAVATED WOUNDING (FIREARM)
1434 - AGGRAVATED INJURY (FIREARM)
1441 - DISABLES/STUPEFIES (FIREARM)
1451 - DANGEROUS ACT INTENT TO GBH (FIREARM)
1454 - DANGEROUS ACT INTENT TO INJURE (FIREARM)
1461 - INJURES IF DEATH, MANSLAUGHTER (FIREARM)
1481 - USE FIREARM AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
1482 - USE FIREARM TO RESIST ARREST/DETENTION
1483 - COMMISSION OF CRIME WITH FIREARM
1491 - ASSAULT PERSON WITH FIREARM OR AIRGUN
1511 - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (FIREARM)
1521 - ASSAULTS WITH INTENT TO INJURE (FIREARM)
1531 - ASSAULTS CHILD (FIREARM)
1541 - MALE ASSAULTS FEMALE (FIREARM)
1551 - ASSAULT POLICE(CRIMES ACT)FIREARM
1561 - ASSLT PER ASSIST POL (CRIMES)FIREARM
1571 - ASSAULTS PERSON EXECUTION PROCESS (FIREARM)
1581 - COM ASSLT(DOMESTIC)CR ACT(FIREARM)
1591 - COMMON ASSAULT(CRIMES ACT)FIREARM
1611 - ASSAULTS POLICE (FIREARM)
1621 - ASSAULTS PERSON ASSIST POLICE (FIREARM)
1631 - ASSAULT OFFICIAL (OTHER STATUTES) (FIREARM)
1641 - COMMON ASSAULT (DOMESTIC) (FIREARM)
1644 - COMMON ASSAULT (TAXI DRIVER) (FIREARM)
1651 - COMMON ASSAULT (FIREARM)
1711 - THREATENS TO KILL/DO GBH (FIREARM)
1721 - THREATEN PERSON(CRIMES ACT)-FIREARM
1725 - THREATEN PROPERTY(CR ACT)-FIREARM

1731 - BEHAVE THREATENINGLY (FIREARM)
1751 - ROGUE AND VAGABOND ARMED(FIREARM)
1753 - CARRY OFFENSIVE WEAPON(FIREARM)
1755 - POSSESS OFFENSIVE WEAPON (FIREARM)
1781 - UNLAWFUL INTIMIDATION/THREATS (FIREARM)
2111 - RAPES FEMALE UNDER 16(FIREARM INVOLVED)
2114 - RAPES FEMALE OVER 16(FIREARM INVOLVED)
2121 - ATTEMPT RAPE/ASSAULT INTENT RAPE(FIREARM)
4131 - ARMED WITH INTENT TO BREAK AND ENTER (FIREARMS)
4136 - ARMED WITH INTENT TO COMMIT BURGLARY (FIREARM)
4155 - COMMITTING BURGLARY WITH A WEAPON (FIREARM)
4157 - REMAINED AFTER BURGLARY (FIREARM)
6823 - POSSESS NON-PROHIBITED FIREARM UNDER 16 YRS
6825 - POSSESS NON-PROHIBITED FIREARM WITHOUT LICENCE (16 OR OVER)
6834 - CARRY PISTOL/RESTRICTED WEAPON WITHOUT LICENCE AUTHORITY
6851 - UNLAWFULLY CARRY/POSSESS FIREARM/RESTRICTED WEAPON/EXPLOSIVES
6852 - UNLAWFULLY CARRY IMITATION FIREARM
6853 - INTOXICATED IN CHARGE OF FIREARM/RESTRICTED WEAPON ETC
6854 - DISCHARGES FIREARM IN/NEAR/PLACE/DWELLING
6855 - USES/DISCHARGES/CARRY OTHER FIREARM TYPE
6856 - UNLAWFULLY POSSESS PISTOL/RESTRICTED WEAPON
6857 - UNLAWFULLY CARRY/POSSESS FIREARM/AMMUNITION/EXPLOSIVES PUBLIC PLACE
6858 - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF NON-PROHIBITED FIREARMS ETC AFTER REVOCATION
6861 - PRESENT FIREARM/RESTRICTED WEAPON AT PERSON
6863 - CARELESS USE OF A FIREARM CAUSING DEATH OR BODILY INJURY
6865 - RECKLESS DISCHARGE FIREARM/RESTRICTED WEAPON
6866 - USES RESTRICTED WEAPON/AIRGUN ETC TO PREVENT/RESIST ARREST
6867 - POSSESS FIREARM/AMMUNITION/EXPLOSIVE - COMMITS OTHER OFFENCE
6955 - UNLAWFULLY POSSESS PROHIBITED FIREARM
6961 - PRESENT PROHIBITED FIREARM AT PERSON
6962 - PRESENT THING LIKELY TO BE BELIEVED TO BE PROHIBITED FIREARM AT PERSON
6964 - POSSESS PROHIBITED FIREARM COMMITS OTHER OFFENCE

Month \ Type of Firearm	Airifle, Airpistol etc.	Pistol, Automatic, Gasgun	Replica of all Types	Rifle all Calibres	Shotguns	Firearm (Not further specified)
August 2016	10	6	3	24	24	16
September 2016	18	8		33	24	12
October 2016	14	9		26	23	18
November 2016	30	12	1	29	25	14
December 2016	18	13		17	15	14
January 2017	21	11	1	26	17	10
February 2017	15	4	2	29	10	14
March 2017 to 26th	6	8	5	22	27	15

Month \ Type of Firearm	Firearm - Airgun	Firearm - Pistol	Firearm - Replica	Firearm - Rifle	Firearm - Shotgun	Firearm (Not further specified)	Firearm - Military Style Semi-Automatic Rifle
March 2017 from 27th	5	1		7	1	10	3
April 2017	22	36	4	66	44	113	2
May 2017	22	33	7	27	48	140	1
June 2017	24	20	5	51	39	104	
July 2017	20	34	5	35	43	100	1
August 2017	32	31	7	60	39	114	5
September 2017	18	36	10	74	48	116	6
October 2017	26	20	7	49	46	116	4
November 2017	24	25	6	54	48	104	
December 2017	34	40	3	63	39	128	10
January 2018	28	43	7	59	42	155	6
February 2018	18	24	3	60	42	108	5
March 2018	20	18	7	61	32	126	3

April 2018	17	36	5	54	43	108	5
May 2018	25	20	2	43	52	150	3
June 2018	12	28	4	69	53	108	3
July 2018	17	21	8	44	39	110	1
August 2018	20	38	10	33	42	113	2
September 2018	10	20	4	54	40	116	3
October 2018	28	34	6	57	73	148	2
November 2018	22	31	7	44	50	111	2
December 2018	33	36	6	72	50	132	2
January 2019	24	24	4	69	41	113	8
February 2019	18	39	7	56	51	138	3
March 2019	29	41	2	61	61	221	4
April 2019	10	40	5	67	44	164	1
May 2019	21	37	8	70	53	143	5
June 2019	11	39	9	39	44	129	4
July 2019	22	36	11	68	69	125	2
August 2019	23	52	7	52	52	184	8
September 2019	18	40	9	66	53	165	5
October 2019	21	36	14	58	67	147	2
November 2019	30	43	9	66	55	149	2
December 2019	26	42	6	56	46	174	3
January 2020	28	41	12	94	75	196	9
February 2020	27	46	6	87	57	166	5
March 2020	29	50	6	87	60	201	8
April 2020	25	42	3	89	59	146	2
May 2020	13	46	12	81	83	181	2

June 2020	26	42	10	87	66	163	6
July 2020	20	26	9	57	57	144	3
August 2020	24	57	8	65	51	153	3
September 2020	27	45	13	40	43	176	3
October 2020	22	37	11	50	64	163	4
November 2020	25	38	10	56	52	200	6
December 2020	30	53	10	63	47	187	3
January 2021	34	39	2	65	55	201	2
February 2021	22	40	7	50	54	160	6
March 2021	18	44	7	59	72	168	4
April 2021	25	35	6	54	51	165	9
May 2021	20	68	6	83	67	193	8
June 2021	23	32	4	62	49	165	7
July 2021	17	34	7	58	55	190	4
August 2021	19	32	2	45	36	142	7
September 2021	21	33	6	50	41	124	
October 2021	32	39	8	45	45	178	2
November 2021	21	30	1	67	60	186	1
December 2021	34	31	8	56	58	223	2
January 2022	31	23	5	57	51	173	3
February 2022	31	25	2	28	50	139	4
March 2022	25	41	8	58	43	197	8
April 2022	28	39	7	47	42	178	5
May 2022	43	38	12	62	87	227	7
June 2022	21	30	14	53	42	160	12
July 2022	15	32	4	47	54	167	1

Firearms seized under Search and Surveillance Act 2012

Month \ Type of Firearm	Airgun - handgun	Airgun - rifle	Handgun - pistol	Handgun - revolver	Imitation - handgun	Imitation - rifle	MSSA - Military Style Semi	Prohibited rifle	Prohibited shotgun	Rifle - cut down	Rifle - full length	Shotgun - cut down	Shotgun - full length
August 2016		5	7	1	2	1	1			5	58	7	18
September 2016	7	10	9		1	1	4			7	42	11	19
October 2016	11	10	2		4	2	1			5	41	6	25
November 2016	7	12	8	1	2		7			3	28	7	21
December 2016	1	7	7	2	1		1			4	47	12	18
January 2017	3	12	6	2			1			8	33	14	19
February 2017	1	11	3		2	1	1			3	52	3	25
March 2017	2	11	3	1			1			13	53	6	21
April 2017	8	5	5		5	1				3	31	8	15
May 2017	10	6	3	2	2					5	44	7	12
June 2017	11	18	2	2	3		1			10	46	12	16
July 2017	3	9	7		3	1	2			7	33	9	27
August 2017	8	10	8		3		1			4	55	9	20
September 2017	12	11	18	4			8			5	79	18	29
October 2017	7	9	2		1		7			9	53	19	18
November 2017	3	5	4			1	1			6	50	11	23
December 2017	3	10	8		1		7			14	40	11	23
January 2018	6	15	10		1		1			3	41	15	24
February 2018	7	13	6		3		4			4	63	8	16
March 2018	6	22	6	2	4		3			2	87	6	32
April 2018	6	14	10	4	6	3	7			10	45	14	19
May 2018	10	14	6	3	2	1	2			8	63	16	31
June 2018	1	10	12	2	1		7			12	55	13	22
July 2018	2	10	3	2	1		1			3	52	15	20
August 2018	4	14	3	2	3	2	5			5	47	15	24
September 2018	7	6	5	1	4	1	2			6	63	13	24
October 2018	7	11	8	2	1	2				11	50	7	30
November 2018	2	10	16	4	1	1	4			8	50	13	21
December 2018	9	19	11	2	6	1	4			8	63	8	32
January 2019	1	16	5		1		1			9	59	3	31
February 2019	4	17	5		5	1	2			10	54	21	28
March 2019	10	29	9	1	5	2	4			10	61	11	27
April 2019	5	24	7	2	5		10			9	80	8	33
May 2019	5	22	9	3	7	3	3	3		13	48	16	25
June 2019	9	10	2	1	4	2		5		8	73	13	30
July 2019	11	14	13		5	1	1	2		4	53	6	16
August 2019	10	20	5	1	4			2	2	15	57	11	25
September 2019	8	16	11	3	1	5		4		12	50	7	27
October 2019	9	9	4	1	2	1		4	1	8	47	13	22
November 2019	7	20	10	3	6	3			2	9	57	14	38
December 2019	1	24	5	2	3	2		1		4	58	9	30
January 2020	10	23	16	4	3			7	1	10	57	20	35
February 2020	4	20	6	1	3			2		5	51	5	22
March 2020	6	23	13	3	5	1		5	1	10	55	16	23
April 2020	5	18	8	2	2		1	4	1	16	80	10	30
May 2020	6	12	9	2	3		2	3	3	9	78	17	34
June 2020	13	21	15	1	4		2	10		18	75	16	35
July 2020	7	23	4	5	2	1		2		9	59	19	28
August 2020	1	18	19	4	7	1	1	5	1	12	79	13	34
September 2020	8	12	7		6			2		16	39	10	25
October 2020	5	15	14	3	7	1	1	1		3	32	17	10
November 2020	3	30	10	2	2			1	1	8	29	17	18
December 2020	6	11	16	5	1		5	2		12	68	9	21
January 2021	5	22	6	1	1			1		7	61	7	30
February 2021	2	11	14	3	5			2	1	8	41	18	13
March 2021	13	20	13	3	5	1		1		5	58	16	24
April 2021	6	13	7	3	8			3		4	54	16	28
May 2021	6	15	19	1	4	2		3	1	16	48	12	30
June 2021	3	26	18	18	16	4		5	1	14	41	13	18
July 2021	4	18	8	3	1	2		5		13	74	14	32
August 2021	3	11	8	3	3			1	1	2	34	11	10
September 2021	4	16	10	11	5			2		6	64	14	12
October 2021	2	10	8	1	3	2		4	2	11	44	12	23
November 2021	6	15	5	4	3				1	6	41	10	15
December 2021	6	12	11	1	6	2		2	2	9	43	13	22
January 2022	6	10	4	5	1	1			1	4	32	11	21
February 2022	3	12	5	1						7	9	12	15
March 2022	6	8	8	2	6			1		8	28	12	12
April 2022	5	19	5	2	1			3	1	6	35	10	18
May 2022	14	34	6		8	3			2	10	110	10	29
June 2022	5	6	11		3	1		4	1	9	51	4	28
July 2022	13	8	4	1	5	2		4	1	8	40	13	18