

18 March 2022

Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests of 26 January 2022 and 8 February 2022 regarding firearms-related events in Auckland.

For these questions, where Auckland is mentioned, I have considered all districts in Tāmaki Makaurau, which consists of three Police Districts: Auckland City, Counties Manukau, and Waitemātā.

People referred to in these responses may not have been necessarily "Aucklanders" and Police has no way of determining whether someone is an Aucklander at the time of the offence. Instead, Scene District was used for these responses – where the offence took place.

Your questions are listed below, followed by an answer to each.

How many Aucklanders have been charged with owning an illegal firearm from the years 2011 - 2021?

There is no such thing as illegal firearms, there are illegally held firearms or prohibited firearms. In New Zealand, people get firearms licences and endorsements on those licences to hold certain types of firearms, such as pistols or prohibited firearms. The firearms themselves do not have a legal status other than some firearms are prohibited firearms¹.

I have interpreted your request as people who were prosecuted for offences related to unlawful possession of a firearm, where the scene of the offence was in Tāmaki Makaurau, and the prosecution was between 2011 and 2021 calendar years. There are 14 offences that relate to unlawful possession of a firearm (for example, unlawfully possess prohibited firearm, unlawfully possess firearm in a public place, possess offensive weapon (firearm)).

¹ <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS187084.html#LMS187084>

Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2021, Police prosecuted 3,231 people for such offences that happened in Tāmaki Makaurau. The table below shows these by year. This is the number of people prosecuted, not the number of charges/offences/convictions. As the same person could be prosecuted multiple times for different offences in different years, the unique total is provided as the rows should not be added.

Table 1. People prosecuted for unlawful possession of a firearm offences in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Prosecution Year	People prosecuted for unlawful possession of a firearm offences in Tāmaki Makaurau
2011	325
2012	317
2013	279
2014	261
2015	255
2016	317
2017	343
2018	404
2019	375
2020	506
2021	394
Unique Total	3,231

How many Aucklanders have been charged with a fraudulent / fake firearm licence from the years 2011 - 2021?

There is no specific offence for having a fake firearms licence. I have interpreted your request as people who were prosecuted for certain firearms licence-specific offences, where the scene of the offence was in Tāmaki Makaurau, and the prosecution was between 2011 and 2021 calendar years. There are seven offences that relate to fraudulent use of a firearms licence (for example, alters firearms licence, supplies false details when applying for a firearms licence, attempts to use other licence to procure firearm).

Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2021, Police prosecuted three people for such offences that happened in Tāmaki Makaurau (one in 2015 and two in 2018).

How many Aucklanders were charged assault, murder, attempted murder and aggravated robbery where a firearm was involved from the years 2011-2021?

There are 33 offences that relate to assault, murder, attempted murder, and aggravated robbery with a firearm.

Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2021, Police prosecuted 828 people for such offences that happened in Tāmaki Makaurau. The table below shows these by year. This is the number of people prosecuted, not the number of charges/offences/convictions. As the same person could be prosecuted multiple times for different offences in different years, the unique total is provided as the rows should not be added.

Table 2. People prosecuted for assault, murder, attempted murder, and aggravated robbery with a firearm in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Prosecution Year	People prosecuted for assault, murder, attempted murder, and aggravated robbery with a firearm in Tāmaki Makaurau
2011	110
2012	83
2013	61
2014	58
2015	71
2016	49
2017	89
2018	99
2019	71
2020	76
2021	120
Unique Total	828

How many recorded incidents have there been in Auckland where firearms were involved from the years 2011 - 2021 (any incident at all)?

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 involved”, 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). Additionally, as you requested ‘incidents’, I am providing number of occurrences that had such offences – one occurrence may have more than one offence, but it is one incident at one location and time.

Table 3. Offences where a firearm was involved in the three Tāmaki Makaurau Districts.

Calendar year of the offence	Occurrences with offences where a firearm was involved
2011	768
2012	803
2013	690
2014	648
2015	660
2016	768
2017	788
2018	794
2019	887

2020	1,068
2021	991
Total	8,865

In addition to the offences data provided above, I also include data from the Gun Safe database (below) to address your question further.

Gun Safe was introduced nationally on 1 March 2019 to record police encounters with firearms. Staff are asked to report all events where firearms are believed to be involved, regardless of whether, or how, these firearms were used during the event. This includes, but is not limited to, events where firearms are seized or located, events where a person involved has a history of using firearms, and events involving the presentation or discharge of firearms at members of public or police (please note, for these reasons, the Offence data in Table 3 cannot be accurately compared to Table 4 below). Prior to 1 March 2019, there was no centralised database for recording all events that involve firearms, and as such equivalent data prior to this date is not available.

The information provided is from a live operational database. There has been significant effort to verify the accuracy of the data, but some inaccuracies may still exist.

Table 4. Gun Safe Events in Tāmaki Makaurau Districts, 1 March 2019 - 31 December 2021.

Calendar Year	Gun Safe Events
2019 from 1 March	633
2020	757
2021	884

How many Aucklanders within the Auckland region have been killed, seriously injured or threatened with a firearm from the years 2011 - 2021?

When a person is shot with a firearm and dies, Police can record this as several offence codes, such as murder, manslaughter, and infanticide, all under sections of the Crimes Act 1962. Additionally, s53(1) of the Arms Act 1983 provides for offences where accidental discharge of a firearm causes death or injury, and homicide is not applicable.

Additionally, Police records information on injury sustained in other violence offences, such as none, minor, or serious. However, the computer field to collect this information has been available only since 2017.

Police does not hold information about causes of death where there is no offence, such as suicide or accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound; however, Ministry of Health holds information on cause of death from coronial investigations², and publishes data on suicide deaths³.

Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2021, there were 1,315 people recorded as victims of violent firearms offences in Tāmaki Makaurau where the victims were seriously injured, or the offence was of threaten with a firearm, murder with a firearm, or manslaughter with a firearm. As the same person could be a victim multiple times in

² <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/collections/mortality-collection>

³ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/suicide-facts-data-tables-19962016>

different offences in different years, the unique total is provided as the rows should not be added.

Table 5. People recorded as victims of violent firearms offences where they were killed, seriously injured, or threatened in Tāmaki Makaurau.


Calendar year of the offence	People recorded as victims of violent firearms offences where they were killed, seriously injured, or threatened in Tāmaki Makaurau
2011	65
2012	68
2013	77
2014	82
2015	91
2016	115
2017	104
2018	103
2019	183
2020	194
2021	244
Unique Total	1,315

All the data in this response is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated.

You may be interested in other 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



Inspector Jason Ross
Acting Director Capability, Frontline Capability