

24 May 2023

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Tēnā koe ██████████

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

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 25 April 2023. You wrote:

*I am seeking all information about calls to the police regarding airsoft (restricted airguns) cases for the current year 2023 and for 2022.*

*For example*

- 1) Cases or records of restricted airguns being confiscated.*
- 2) Cases or records of police getting calls regarding
  - a) restricted airguns not secured in hotels, motels or other businesses.*
  - b) restricted airguns being used in an inappropriate way.**

Your questions are refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held. The reasons for this are detailed below.

When police officers encounter firearms in the course of their normal duties, and they have concerns about these firearms, they have the option to seize the firearms under the provisions of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. Two provisions commonly used are sections 18 (warrantless searches associated with arms) and 6 (search warrant). When the seizure is recorded in the Police systems, options relevant to your request are Airgun – rifle and Airgun – handgun. There is no specific field to identify restricted airguns and each seized airgun would need to be inspected to make a determination of whether it is a restricted airgun.

When Police communication centres receive a request for service, an event is entered in the Communication and Resource Deployment (CARD) system. Events may come via many sources, not just via phone, and may include officer-discovered events.

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### **Police National Headquarters**

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Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

CARD events can only have one code type, and Police practice is to code the most serious risk or alleged offence. There is one generic code for all firearms-related events, and it is not specific to restricted airguns. Firearms may also be involved in other event types, such as murder, assault, or robbery.

Police would have to review all such events to make a determination of whether the event was related to airguns and more specifically to restricted airguns. This information may also not be recorded to that detail in the CARD event as CARD is a system focused on resource deployment (ie, officer dispatch).

After an event is dealt with, it may be transferred to the Police National Intelligence Application (NIA) where all relevant offences are recorded in detail for further investigation and charges if required. There are several offences that relate to airguns, but they all relate to "firearm/airgun" – so would be used for both type of firearms, not just restricted airguns. There is one offence that relates to airguns specifically, but it is all airguns, not restricted airguns only. Again, each case would have to be reviewed in detail to make a determination if it relates to restricted airguns.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Dave Greig**  
Director Capability