

IR-01-23-8120

8 May 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 15 March 2023. You wrote:

In the Manawātū region over the past 28 days, how many firearm incidents have been reported to Police? How many firearms have been recovered by Police? How many arrests in relation to firearms incidents have been made?

What prevention work is carried out by Police in regards to firearms? Have there been any injuries in any firearm incident over the past 28 days, to any of the parties involved? And what were the nature of those injuries?

Police considers firearms-related offences to be all offences under the Arms Act 1983 and any offence that specifies a firearm was involved (eg, robbery with a firearm).

In the 28 days between 15 February 2023 and 15 March 2023, Police recorded 21 firearms-related offences in Manawātū Police Area. This includes offences reported to Police and those discovered by police officers. Each offence may have multiple victims, multiple offenders/suspects, and witnesses. Each one of those may sustain none, one, or more injuries, however the recording is at the offence level – what is the most serious injury level for that offence (none, minor, serious, fatal). Therefore, the number of injuries cannot be provided, only the number of offences that had injuries. Four of these offences have an injury recorded, two were recorded as serious and two as minor.

At the same time, Police took into custody three individuals in Manawātū Police Area where at least one of the offences was a firearms-related offence and seized 14 firearms under section 6 or section 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012.

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).

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

Some prevention initiatives are described on the Police website:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/news/release/orders-coming-force-prevent-harm-firearms>

<https://www.police.govt.nz/news/release/police-operation-prevent-firearms-related-violence-continues>

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety>

You may be interested in firearms-related data that Police publishes monthly

<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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Greig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Superintendent Dave Greig
Director Capability
