

10 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 27 June 2018. Your request was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically requested:

- *Statistics of crimes in the past 10 years involving a firearm in which the firearm was used in an offensive manner (i.e: Armed robbery, threatening etc) by firearms license holders?*
- *Could I also ask the same statistics criteria, but by people possessing the arms without having ever had a license?*
- *Also, as the law doesn't require this of you, an optional request: Would it be at all possible to get a comment from yourself in regards to the U.S's approach to firearm ownership with the 2nd Amendment?*

The questions you pose predicate the offences to be resolved, ie, we need to have identified the offender to know whether they'd held a firearms licence at the time of the offence. This means that the information below is not all offences with a firearm.

To get the most recent complete year, I have chosen to show this data by fiscal year, as the 2017/18 year has just ended on 30 June 2018.

Also, as you have asked about specifically 'offensive manner', I have limited the offence types to just the Violence category. I have grouped the results by class of offence and by year to provide you some context and trends.

Violence category offences with a firearm where the offender had a current firearms licence at the time of the offence:

	Grievous Assaults	Homicide	Intimidation and Threats	Minor Assaults	Robbery	Serious Assaults
2008/09	5	5	47	0	0	1
2009/10	9	5	25	2	2	0
2010/11	7	4	35	1	0	0
2011/12	10	2	33	1	0	1
2012/13	10	2	28	0	0	0
2013/14	11	3	23	1	1	1
2014/15	3	0	24	2	0	0
2015/16	8	2	36	1	1	0
2016/17	7	4	22	0	6	0
2017/18	10	1	28	0	0	0

Violence category offences with a firearm where the offender has never held a firearms licence as at 24 July 2018:

	Grievous Assaults	Homicide	Intimidation and Threats	Minor Assaults	Robbery	Serious Assaults
2008/09	215	30	299	10	156	27
2009/10	134	15	286	28	153	15
2010/11	101	15	266	39	143	17
2011/12	106	8	286	51	148	15
2012/13	84	8	218	61	99	15
2013/14	71	8	234	42	85	10
2014/15	109	7	294	33	93	9
2015/16	85	13	295	38	87	15
2016/17	146	6	306	20	148	10
2017/18	105	16	266	7	94	6

Regarding your request for comment on the US approach to gun control and the second amendment:

It is not appropriate for New Zealand Police to comment on other nation's approach to gun ownership and legislative controls. Assessment of the effectiveness of the legislative approaches is best achieved through comparative analysis of gun related harm in the respective communities.

New Zealand's legislative approach to gun control is similar to the majority of western countries which do not accept a generalised right to bear arms including that a generalised fear is not a justification for keeping a firearm readily available for self-defence.

Justice Thorp in the June 1997 Review of Firearms Control in New Zealand discussed at some length the purpose and principles of firearms legislation and the firearms debate and concluded "In my view there is no sound argument for recognition of a general right to obtain and possess arms for self-defence and clear argument against the desirability of doing so. Similarly the question of whether the possession of firearms should be deemed a "right" or "privilege" is a barren argument in this country, where the issue is not whether there should be controls over firearms but what controls are appropriate in the public interest".

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Chris Scahill
National Manager: Response and Operations