

Impact Summary: Proposals to improve the risk management of semi-automatic pistols

Section 1: General information

Purpose

New Zealand Police is solely responsible for the analysis and advice set out in this Regulatory Impact Statement, except as otherwise explicitly indicated.

This analysis and advice has been produced for the purpose of informing the final decisions to proceed with a policy change to be taken by or on behalf of Cabinet.

Key Limitations or Constraints on Analysis

The Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines and Parts) Amendment Act 2019 prohibited certain types of semi-automatic and high-capacity firearms, but excluded all pistols. Some pistols have subsequently been identified as being able to cause the same type of high harm (high harm being the dangerousness or lethality if misused). There is now a risk that individuals who have criminal intent could turn to the more available long pistols and pistol carbine frames/conversion kits.

The proposals seek to either prohibit or control:

- certain semi-automatic centrefire rifles that by virtue of their length are defined as pistols, and
- pistol frames/conversion kits (and their air pistol variant) which can enhance any pistol's range and accuracy making it capable of causing high harm if misused.

For the purposes of the regulatory impact analysis, pistol length semi-automatic centrefire rifles will be referred to as long pistols.

We are unsure of the number of long pistols

It is not clear how many long pistols are lawfully held on a pistol endorsement. A search of licensee information held on the National Intelligence Application on the most likely brand names, identified 44 such items. To be confident with these numbers it would require looking at the individual records of all 4,392 pistol endorsed licence holders (as of 30 September 2019). It is estimated that the number of long pistols is likely to be fewer than 100.

We are unsure of the number of pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

There are approximately 2,000 pistol-endorsed licence holders who use pistol carbine frames/conversion kits to compete in pistol-calibre carbine competitions in New Zealand.

However because a firearms licence is not required to purchase a pistol carbine frame/conversion kit, it is possible that a number of frames/conversion kits are held that we have no oversight of. Police agreed to the use of pistol carbine frames/conversion kits, on the condition that they were sold only to pistol-endorsed licence holders. However, there is the potential that some dealers may not have adhered to the non-legislative agreement.

Another potential risk is posed by carbine frames designed for air pistols. They are not designed to hold bullet-firing pistols and would typically break if used with one. Like regular pistol carbine frames/conversion kits, air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits do not require a firearms licence to purchase and possess. This makes estimating the number of air pistol carbine frame/conversion kits difficult. A manufacturer could design an air pistol carbine frame/conversion kit to be used with a bullet-firing pistol. This presents an additional risk and we are unsure how many air pistol carbine frames there are that could be used with bullet-firing pistols.

Cost and the potential need for another buyback and amnesty

Should any option be chosen that requires prohibition of a firearm, this will create cost through a resulting buyback and amnesty. Because we are unsure of the number of arms items that people may possess, this creates difficulty when estimating the potential cost of a compensation scheme. As we are unlikely to be able to extend the current buyback and amnesty, we would need to design and approve a new process through Cabinet. The overall costs are estimated to be in the order of \$3.7 million. Costs are further explored later in the regulatory impact assessment.

Consultation has been limited

Consultation on the proposals has involved a limited number of members of the firearms community who have a special interest and knowledge relating to pistols and air pistols. Due to constraining timeframes we have been unable to conduct extensive consultation from all relevant stakeholders.

Responsible Manager (signature and date):

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Section 2: Problem definition and objectives

2.1 What is the policy problem or opportunity?

Following the Christchurch March 15 terror attacks, the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019 (the Amendment Act) prohibited certain types of military style semi-automatics (MSSAs). All pistols were excluded from the prohibition. However since then, risks have arisen around:

- centrefire semi-automatic rifles, that because of their length, are classified as pistols (they have an overall length greater than 400mm and less than 762mm) and are excluded from prohibition, and
- frames/conversion kits that increase a pistol or air pistol's accuracy and range.

In keeping with the policy intent of the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, we need to either prohibit or place more controls on these arms items as they are able to cause high harm if misused.

Pistol length centrefire semi-automatic rifles (long pistols) are equivalent to MSSAs

The consequence of excluding pistols from prohibition means that a small number (estimated at between 50 and 100) of pistol length centrefire semi-automatic rifles (long pistols) are still able to be legally possessed. They cannot be lawfully used on a pistol range due to their length. Currently, access to these firearms is restricted to licence holders with a pistol or collector endorsement. In effect they are no different from other full length MSSAs that have been made prohibited.

The picture below shows a full length MSSA (above) and a long pistol equivalent of that same firearm (below).



Risk of public harm: Long pistols

Allowing the continued possession of long pistols is inconsistent with the intent of the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, which is to increase the safety of New Zealanders by removing harmful firearms from public circulation where they have no legitimate public use. Now that there is a general prohibition on semi-automatic and high capacity firearms, there is a risk that long pistols may become a target for individuals with criminal intent who wish to cause high harm as it is easier to gain access to these firearms now that MSSAs have been prohibited. Should long pistols be misused, they are capable of high levels of harm equivalent to that of an MSSA.

As long pistols are not prohibited, they are not eligible for compensation. It is unknown how many of the 4,392 pistol-endorsed licence holders (as of 30 September 2019) hold long pistols. Because long pistols cannot be lawfully used, people who are holding them have few satisfactory options available to them should the status quo remain in place. Currently, they may:

- hand them in and receive no compensation,
- hold onto these firearms in the hope that controls will be changed to allow for their use, or
- seek an exemption to hold them as a collector.

Pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

Pistol carbine frames/conversion kits can be combined with any pistol to increase its accuracy, range and capacity for harm. There are four types of frame/conversion kits known to be used, three of the frame/conversion kits do not require a firearms licence because of their design. The other frame/conversion kit has an in-built firing mechanism and does require a firearms licence. A pistol is required to make the frame/conversion kit operable and this requires the individual to possess a pistol-endorsed firearms licence. A pistol in a carbine frame/conversion kit is pictured below.



Prior to the general prohibition on MSSAs, some firearm clubs would run shooting competitions known as 3 gun (target shooting with a pistol, shotgun and semi-automatic rifle). However now that MSSAs are prohibited, 3 gun competitors may look to alternative firearms similar to MSSAs. There is a concern that, following tightening up of other elements of the firearms regime, pistol-endorsed licence holders, shooting clubs, and firearms dealers may promote the introduction of pistol carbines in competitions. Should this occur, more shooting competitors may purchase pistol carbine frames/conversion kits increasing their numbers in the public armoury.

Risk of harm: Pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

The primary risk arising from pistol carbine frames/conversion kits is that anybody can purchase and possess them (with the exception of the one brand that requires a firearms licence). This means that any individual can purchase a frame/conversion kit without needing to hold a firearms licence, and if they obtain a pistol, could combine the two items to create a firearm that could cause harm comparable to the harm caused by the firearms used in the Christchurch terror attacks.

As it is easy to purchase a pistol carbine frame/conversion kit, there is an unknown number of these items in public circulation. There is a risk that this number would also likely increase with more people seeking frames/conversion kits as an alternative to MSSAs.

Air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

Frames/conversion kits also have an air pistol (defined in the Arms Act 1983 as a weapon using gas or compressed air, not explosive, to discharge any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile) variant, such as the Airsoft brand.

Risk of harm: Air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

The majority of air pistol frames/conversion kits would disintegrate if used with a bullet-firing pistol. However, others are considered sufficiently robust or could be modified to be able to be used with an explosive bullet-firing pistol. Therefore some air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits could pose a similar risk to regular pistol carbines, if controls are not put in place.

2.2 Who is affected and how?

The proposed prohibitions and controls are intended to pre-empt a potential shift in criminal behaviour which, if it occurred, would see an increased use of the more available long pistols and pistol carbine frames/conversion kits, in lieu of the prohibited MSSAs.

Pistol owners and users will be impacted by the proposed changes. In consultation, long pistols owners have indicated that they would want long pistols to become prohibited so they can receive compensation. Pistol carbines present a risk that needs to be addressed. Should they become prohibited, this would negatively impact competitive pistol target shooters, inexperienced pistol shooters who use pistol carbine frames/ conversion kits to learn and manufacturers of pistol carbine frames.

Sellers and manufacturers of air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits could also be affected, as they may have to ensure that the frames/conversion kits that they are selling or manufacturing cannot be used with a bullet-firing pistol.

The people of New Zealand would be positively affected by the proposed changes, as they will benefit from any additional controls placed on potentially dangerous firearms that can put them at risk. The public will ultimately bear the costs for any resulting buyback and amnesty that is required should long pistols or pistol carbines become prohibited.

2.3 Are there any constraints on the scope for decision making?

The prohibition of MSSAs was followed by the implementation of a buyback and amnesty, to compensate individuals who had lawfully purchased and possessed MSSAs prior to their prohibition. There will likely be the expectation that a similar buyback and amnesty would need to be run should the decision be made to prohibit any long pistols, pistol and air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. The scale of the buyback and amnesty would be considerably smaller than that already underway for prohibited firearms, parts and magazines.

Section 3: Options identification

3.1 What options have been considered?

This section sets out a range of options for proposals to restrict the misuse of, and access to, pistol-length semi-automatic centrefire rifles (long pistols), pistol carbine frame/conversion kits (pistol carbines) and air pistol carbine frames.

Options have been assessed against:

- the risk that the continued access to the arms items pose to personal and public safety,
- the risk that the firearms would fall into the hands of those with criminal intent
- the individual enjoyment lawful users/owners of these items would be entitled to,
- the likelihood that a proposal would be accepted by the firearms community, and
- the potential resulting cost.

Options analysis – pistol-length semi-automatic centrefire rifles

Option 1 – Retain the status quo

This option would require no legislative changes and instead rely on the current provisions of the Arms Act 1983 (the Act) to prevent future usage and importation of long pistols. This would retain a risk that Parliament has sought to eliminate with the 2019 amendments to the Act. It would also leave owners able to lawfully possess the long pistols, but not use them.

Another disadvantage would be that this option treats licence holders unfairly, as some may be forced to retain these firearms when an equivalent firearm is eligible for compensation.

Option 2 (recommended) – Amend the definition of prohibited firearm to prohibit long pistols

This option amends the definition of prohibited firearms by declaring long pistols to be prohibited. This option eliminates the risk of harm posed by long pistols. It would also require re-litigating the definition of prohibited firearm and risk opening up the whole definition of prohibited firearm to challenge.

An advantage of this option is that it would likely be supported by Pistol New Zealand and most pistol-endorsed licence holders, as the fewer than 100 people estimated to legally hold these firearms will justifiably expect compensation and it would make accessing long pistols for criminal use more difficult.

A disadvantage would be the establishment of another compensation scheme which creates an additional cost to the Crown. However, public safety would be improved by the firearms being handed in which is the paramount goal of the Act.

Option 3 – Allow the use of pistol-length semi-automatic centrefire rifles on certified ranges

This option proposes an additional amendment to the proposed new section 38N under the Arms Legislation Bill (the Bill). The proposed amendment would add a new subclause stating

that: “the Commissioner shall not approve any range for target shooting if the intention is to use that range for shooting any pistol with an overall length less than 762mm and greater than 400mm, and which, when fired has muzzle velocity or greater than 1600 feet per second”. This would reduce the risk of pressure to introduce new competition for long pistols.

An advantage of this option is that it makes clear in primary legislation that these firearms cannot be used on a shooting range.

A disadvantage would be that a small number of high harm firearms would remain in the community. More controls would be established on the pistol or collector endorsement, but the potential for these arms items to be obtained for criminal purposes would remain.

Options analysis – pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

Option 1 – Retain the status quo

This option would still allow individuals to purchase most pistol carbine frames/conversion kits without needing a firearms licence.

An advantage of this option would be preventing the need to make any legislative change and there being no additional cost to the Government.

A disadvantage would be allowing a number of arms items that could enable anyone who possesses a pistol to convert it into a high harm firearm. Frames/conversion kits would also remain in public circulation where they could be accessed by individuals with criminal intent which could cause harm to the public.

Option 2 – Prohibit the use of pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

This option amends the definition of prohibited firearm to include a pistol carbine frame or part of a pistol carbine conversion kit.

The advantage of this option is that it reduces the potential harm from converting pistols to high harm firearms by using pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. This option removes frames/conversion kits from circulation, reducing their potential for misuse.

A disadvantage is that this would require re-litigating the definition of prohibited firearm and potentially open up the whole definition of prohibited firearm to challenge. Another disadvantage would be the impact to the estimated 2,000 competitors who would have to hand in their prohibited pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. The option is also expected to be opposed by the majority of pistol licence holders, as it would also remove one of the training tools used to introduce inexperienced persons to pistol shooting.

This option would also require a compensation scheme which is estimated to cost between \$1.5 million and \$3.5 million based on the estimated number for pistol-endorsed licence holders and dealers/manufacturers. There may also be additional pistol carbine frames/conversion kits in New Zealand that would be eligible for compensation that are not known to Police as they may have been purchased by non-pistol-endorsed licence holders.

Option 3 – Control the use of pistol carbine frames and conversion kits through the definition of prohibited firearm and other controls

This option amends the definition of prohibited firearm and creates a specific exception. This would allow pistol carbine frames/conversion kits to be used by pistol-endorsed licence

holders in pistol carbine competitions, when these are held at pistol shooting clubs that have been recognised by the Commissioner of Police.

A disadvantage would be that there are still some potentially dangerous arms items remaining in public circulation which could be accessed by criminals. Another disadvantage would be that non-pistol-endorsed licence holders would still require a compensation scheme for pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. It would however remove the need for pistol-endorsed licence holders, dealers and manufacturers to hand in their pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. This option would also require re-litigating the definition of prohibited firearm and potentially open up the whole definition of prohibited firearm to challenge.

Option 4 (recommended) – Amend legislation to control pistol carbine frames/conversion kits but without changing the definition of prohibited firearm

This option would introduce a new definition of pistol carbine frame/conversion kit and introduce specific controls. These include:

- pistol carbine frames/conversion kits are to imported, possessed, sold or supplied only by someone with a pistol-endorsed licence,
- frames must be numbered and registered with Police, and
- defining a pistol carbine frame/conversion kits so as to confine their application to pistols of particular calibres, barrel lengths and muzzle velocity.

The fourth option is similar to the third option, but avoids the need to change the definition of prohibited firearm which is an advantage as it does not open up the whole definition of prohibited firearm to challenge.

The advantage to this option is that it enables pistol competitors to continue with their sport with marginal additional compliance costs for the importer, manufacturer or licence holder.

A disadvantage is that, like option three, there would still be some potentially dangerous arms items in public circulation which could be accessed by individuals with criminal intent.

Options analysis – Air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

Option 1 – Retain the status quo

This option would rely on the majority of air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits being of insufficient quality to represent a public safety risk if used with a bullet-firing pistol. An advantage to this option would be avoiding the need to make any legislative changes, but the downside would be the risk that manufacturers could create air pistol frames/conversion kits that could be used with bullet-firing pistols.

Option 2 (recommended) – Define air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

This option would specifically define air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits and allow an exemption for their possession. The exemption would be subject to import permit applications and a 'special reason' to import the frame, which would be accepted by the Commissioner of Police or his delegate. For example, import by a person who is a member of an airsoft club affiliated with Airsoft Sports New Zealand or equivalent national organisation.

The increased control would be an advantage as it would prevent air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits from being created that could hold a bullet-firing pistol, and limit who can import them. A disadvantage would be that this option does not address air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits that are already in circulation, though Police is not aware of any currently available that are sufficiently robust to be used with bullet-firing pistols.

Option 3 – Prohibit air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

A third option would be to change the definition of prohibited firearm to include air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. An advantage to this option would be that it would remove any potentially dangerous arms items from public circulation and prevent their import, which would limit criminal access to air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits.

However, this option has its disadvantages. The option would require re-litigating the definition of prohibited firearm which could open the whole definition to challenge, any compensation scheme resulting from a prohibition could be costly as we are unsure of how many air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits there are in public circulation, and this option is unlikely to be supported by the air pistol community and risks upsetting the wider firearms community. The option may also unnecessarily prohibit all air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits, when we know that most can only be used with air pistols.

3.2 Which of these options is the proposed approach?

Long pistols

The recommended option for managing long pistols is Option Two which is to include long pistols in the definition of prohibited firearm. This would remove the largest number of potentially dangerous firearms from public circulation and make them less accessible to those seeking to use them illegally to cause high harm. It is also the most likely to be supported by Pistol New Zealand and pistol-endorsed licence holders, as it provides owners of long pistols an opportunity to receive compensation for items that they would otherwise be unable to lawfully use. This is preferable to allowing long pistol use on certified ranges, as the risk of harm posed by long pistols is equivalent to that of recently prohibited MSSAs.

Pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

The preferred option for mitigating the risk posed by pistol carbine frames/conversion kits is Option Four which introduces definitions for pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. This option places controls on a potentially dangerous arms item (if misused) without needing to amend the definition of prohibited firearm. This is a better alternative to prohibiting pistol carbine frames/conversion kits as it will prevent the need to have another compensation scheme, avoids re-litigating the definition of prohibited firearm, and allow pistol-endorsed licence holders, dealers and manufacturers to continue to use the arms items with some restrictions.

Air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits

The preferred option for air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits would be to regulate their specifications and who may import them, as there is a risk that the frames may allow for use for bullet-firing pistols. This option is more desirable than prohibiting air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits as it does not require unnecessary prohibition, establishing a buyback

or amnesty, and the risk posed by misuse of these items is lower than regular pistol carbine frames/conversion kits.

The preferred options for the three proposals are compatible with the Government's 'Expectations for the design of regulatory systems'.

Section 4: Impact Analysis (Proposed approach)

4.1 Summary table of costs and benefits

Affected parties (identify)	Comment: nature of cost or benefit (eg ongoing, one-off), evidence and assumption (eg compliance rates), risks	Impact <i>\$m present value, for monetised impacts; high, medium or low for non-monetised impacts</i>
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Additional costs of proposed approach, compared to taking no action

Regulated parties (Firearm and air pistol community)	<p>A small number of users of long pistols would have to hand them in to Police, though they are current not lawfully able to use them.</p> <p>The Firearms and air pistol community is expected to incur some minimal costs as there is expected to be increased controls on pistol carbine and Airsoft frames/conversion kits.</p>	Low - Medium
Regulators (Police)	Should prohibition for the arms items be the chosen option, then Police would incur costs from the resulting buyback if it is implemented.	Long pistols: \$70,000 to \$200,000 (estimated)
Wider government (Customs)	Should import controls be required on certain arms items, this could create additional costs for New Zealand Customs.	Low
Other parties (General Public)	If a compensation scheme were to be put in place, the New Zealand taxpayer would bear the costs of the buyback.	Medium
Total Monetised Cost	<i>Estimated \$200,000 for long pistols.</i>	<i>Medium</i>
Non-monetised costs	<p><i>The options for pistol carbine frames/conversion kits will make using, possessing and importing the items more restrictive.</i></p> <p><i>Limits on import numbers for pistol carbine frames/conversion kits would restrict the option for the sport to grow.</i></p>	Low

Expected benefits of proposed approach, compared to taking no action

Regulated parties (Firearm community)	<p>Owners of long pistols (who could not lawfully use them) could now receive compensation for their items.</p> <p>Pistol carbine competitors will be able to continue their sport.</p>	Low - Medium
Regulators	There should be a reduction and	Medium

(Police)	increased control of potentially dangerous firearms in public circulation. This should also mean that Police are less likely to encounter these items during the course of their day-to-day work.	
Wider government		
Other parties (General Public)	The general public benefit from there being less potentially dangerous items in circulation.	Medium
Total Monetised Benefit	<i>Owners of long pistols should receive compensation for firearms that they cannot lawfully use.</i>	<i>Medium</i>
Non-monetised benefits	<i>Increased safety for both the Police and the general public.</i>	<i>Medium</i>

4.2 What other impacts is this approach likely to have?

Stakeholder impacts

Members of the pistol and air pistol community may disengage with Police as these are further changes to the arms regime, which has undergone a lot of change recently.

These changes could also further alienate the wider firearms community, who may have had their trust and confidence in Police eroded by the initial prohibition of MSSAs. The firearms community may feel that they are being treated unfairly by having more firearms classified as prohibited.

Buyback and amnesty impacts

If an appropriate compensation and amnesty scheme is not put in place for the proposed prohibited long pistols or pistol carbines, these arms items may be retained or illegally traded.

Non-pistol-endorsed licence holders may retain their pistol carbine frames if restrictions are put in place. This could be addressed through Police using licensing touch points to ensure that an individual has the correct licence if they are found to be in possession of a frame/conversion kit.

Section 5: Stakeholder views

5.1 What do stakeholders think about the problem and the proposed solution?

There has been limited engagement with stakeholders as we are putting forward these proposals as a supplementary order paper to the Arms Legislation Bill which requires the work to be completed at pace. This also means that there will be limited ongoing stakeholder engagement, though the extent of the consultation will depend upon the timing of the supplementary order paper (SOP) and whether the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee, which is currently considering the Arms Legislation Bill, chooses to extend its consultation to include the proposed SOP.

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have been consulted and provided information that led to the development of the options described in Section 3. Those consulted were aware some of the options were still under consideration. These individuals represent many of the pistol-endorsed licence holders in New Zealand, who would likely be the most affected group, and have provided their views on which options pistol and air pistol users would be most comfortable with.

The views of the non-firearms owning public and those seeking more gun control equally need to be considered. Typically the non-firearms owning public are not involved in discussion on firearms legislation, but this does not mean they do not have a genuine interest in firearm regulation. The non-firearms owning public would likely support any controls or prohibitions put in place around long pistols and pistol carbine frames/conversion kits, as they pose a risk similar to the recently prohibited MSSAs.

Section 6: Implementation and operation

6.1 How will the new arrangements be given effect?

The selected options are proposed to be introduced as a supplementary order paper (SOP) to the Arms Legislation Bill.

Any proposed options would likely come into effect at the same time the first tranche of changes from the Arms Legislation Bill (the Bill) would come into force. Currently the Bill is set to come into force early 2020. This should be enough time for the public to be made aware of the proposals and adjust to any changes that may result. There is a risk that there may not be the support required to include the agreed proposals in the Arms Legislation Bill.

New Zealand Police will be the responsible agency for the implementation of the selected options. Police has been responsible for establishing and managing the previous firearms buyback and amnesty, therefore it is likely that we will also operate any future compensation scheme that may involve long pistols or pistol carbine frames/conversion kits. Police can also learn from the current buyback and amnesty when putting in place any other scheme.

Any significant difficulties in implementation will likely come from a buyback and amnesty scheme. However a compensation scheme involving any pistols would be easier to organise as pistol-endorsed licence holders are required to register their pistols. This means Police will have a better understanding of how many pistols we expect to receive as we will be able to connect with the 4,392 pistol-endorsed licence holders (as of 30 September 2019).

It is critical that any buyback or amnesty is run effectively and efficiently because of the costs involved and the risk that, if they are handled poorly, the firearms community will disengage with Police and firearms will potentially end up in criminal possession. To allay firearm community concerns with any buyback or amnesty, it is important that Police has effective communication with them that is transparent about the process and goal of the buyback and amnesty. Police will also need to communicate to owners and users of pistol and air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits about how the changes will affect them.

Section 7: Monitoring, evaluation and review

7.1 How will the impact of the new arrangements be monitored?

Overall, the success of the changes proposed to long pistols, and pistol and air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits will be that people are not harmed by these arms items. New Zealand Police would also expect to see these arms items handed in through a buyback or amnesty scheme should they become prohibited.

If more controls are placed on pistol carbine frames/conversion kits, Police should expect a number of non-pistol-endorsed licence holders to either apply for a pistol endorsement on their licence, or sell their pistol carbine frames to pistol-endorsed licence holders. Police will also be able to use touch-points throughout a licence's lifetime to ensure that licence holders have the correct endorsement to possess pistol carbine frames/conversion kits.

Police are limited in measuring the impact the proposals will have on holders of pistol carbine frames/conversion kits who do not have a firearms licence, as these are not registered anywhere and they would have minimal interaction with Police.

Air pistol carbine frames/conversion kits will be able to be monitored through their import permits and how they are constructed so that they cannot be used with bullet-firing pistols.

7.2 When and how will the new arrangements be reviewed?

The Arms Legislation Bill is currently going through the Select Committee process. It proposes to introduce a review process that will require the Minister of Police to review the operation of the Arms Act 1983 and the impact of the Bill five years after the amendment and all of its provisions have been fully in force. The Minister would then have 18 months to make the review and present a report to the House of Representatives.

However, this would not limit Police from reviewing the proposed changes to long pistols or pistol carbines if a situation arose that required the legislation to be re-examined.