

16 January 2020

Our Reference: IR-01-19-26583

Ian McDonald
Email: fyi-request-11313-737d9538@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ian

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 28 September 2019. You requested:

- 1. The number of firearms seized from Licenced Firearm Owners since March 15th 2019.*
- 2. The number of Licenced Firearms Owners who have had firearms seized since March 15th 2019.*
- 3. A break down of offenses under the Arms Act and numbers in which those Licenced Firearm Owners were charged with that led to the seizure of their firearms.*
- 4. A break down of offenses and numbers in which those Licenced Firearm Owners were successfully prosecuted or pending trial.*
- 5. How many of those Licenced Firearm Owners who had their firearms seized, resulted in having their Firearms Licenses canceled.*
- 6. A break down of the type of firearms seized.*
- 7. Of those who have had their firearms seized, how many (numbers of people and numbers of firearms), have since been returned to their owners.*

Between 15 March and 1 December 2019, Police has seized 415 firearms under section 6 or 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2002 from situations where at least one of the people present had a firearms licence. There were 120 unique firearms licence holders present at these seizure events.

Your questions 3 and 4 are refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information you requested is not held. As per section 6 or 18 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2002, a prosecution charge is not a necessary precursor to a seizure. The seizure could be due to a family harm event, mental health issues, a search warrant, or any other reasons stipulated in those two sections of the Act.

A firearms licence is cancelled usually when its holder dies. I interpreted your question to mean how many no longer have an active licence. Of the 120 firearms licence holders, as at 2 Dec 2019, 27 have had their licence revoked, five have surrendered their licence,

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two have had their licence expire and they provided an explanation for not renewing it, and 26 firearms licence holders are currently going through the process of having their licence revoked.

The firearms that were seized are listed by type below.

Firearm Type	Firearms
Airgun - handgun	3
Airgun - rifle	25
Handgun - pistol	4
Imitation - rifle	2
MSSA - Military Style Semi Automatic	7
Prohibited rifle	4
Rifle - cut down	1
Rifle - full length	261
Shotgun - cut down	5
Shotgun - full length	103
Total	415

Your question 7 is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information you request is not held.

Where your questions were refused, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith
Acting Superintendent
Arms Act Service Delivery Group