

4 February 2021

Our Reference: IR-01-21-645

Ian McDonald
Email: fyi-request-14439-e0c4e458@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ian

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 11 January 2021. You wrote:

- 1. At the time this request is received, when purchasing ammunition for a rifle or shotgun from a retail outlet selling ammunition, what personal information are you required to provide by law? (eg: current firearms licence, name, residential address, phone number, etc)*
- 2. At the time this request is received, when currently purchasing ammunition for a rifle or shotgun from a retail outlet selling ammunition, what personal information is the retail outlet required to collect by law? (eg: current firearms licence, name, amount and type of ammunition purchased, residential address, phone number, etc)*
- 3. At the time this request is received, when currently purchasing gun parts and accessories for a firearm, such as a sling, telescopic sights, suppressor, after-market stock, after-market trigger, or any other part, what personal information are you required to provide by law? (eg: current firearms licence, name, residential address, phone number, etc)*
- 4. At the time this request is received, when currently purchasing gun parts and accessories for a firearm, such as a sling, telescopic sights, suppressor, after-market stock, after-market trigger, or any other part, what personal information is the retail outlet required to collect by law? (eg: current firearms licence, name, amount and type of part(s) purchased, residential address, phone number, etc)*

These are legal questions and it is not within the scope of the Official Information Act 1982 to create information or to provide legal advice.

Police National Headquarters

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I can, however, point you to some resources¹ in relation to the new Arms Act legislation that became law on 24 Dec 2020.

The first two questions refer to the purchase of ammunition (as the law applies now) and the personal information a person has to provide and that a retail outlet has to collect. Currently, ammunition sellers need to keep records of ammunition sold or supplied in accordance with section 22E(1) of the Arms Act 1983². When purchasing ammunition by mail order or via internet³, section 43A(1) also applies⁴. Note that these changes do not cover prohibited ammunition.

From June 2021, section 12 of the Arms Act 1983 will also require licensed dealers to keep particulars prescribed by regulations relating to ammunition supplied in the course of carrying on their business. These changes are described on the Police website⁵.

The last two questions refer to the purchase of gun parts and the personal information a person has to provide and that a retail outlet has to collect. The requirements will vary depending on whether the part is a prohibited part or not. Prohibited parts and prohibited magazines can only be lawfully supplied to a person with an endorsement (and for prohibited magazines, a permit in relation to the magazine – refer ss 44A⁶ and 44B⁷) which will contain some personal information. For mail order or internet sales of non-prohibited parts, refer to section 43A(1), and for prohibited parts refer to section 43A(3).

From June 2021, section 12 will also require dealers to keep records in relation to arms items that are parts that are yet to be prescribed by regulations.

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 Safety and Control

¹ <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/new-firearms-laws-and-what-they-mean/24-december-2020/ammunition>

² <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS440371.html>

³ <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/licences-permits-and-endorsements/mail-order-or-internet-sale>

⁴ <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/DLM72977.html>

⁵ <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/new-firearms-laws-and-what-they-mean/one-year-june-2021-changes>

⁶ <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS187311.html>

⁷ <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS187313.html>