

8 July 2021

Our Reference: IR-01-21-18816

Wes

Email: [fyi-request-15805-167e0c46@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15805-167e0c46@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Wes

I am writing in response to your request dated 16 June 2021. You wrote:

*I am requesting information regarding NZ Firearms license applications and the associated NZ Police resource pool. Please find details of the request below:*

- 1. The total number of new firearm license applications (A / B / C / E / P) and renewal applications (A / B / C / E / P) over the past 5 years, broken down by month.*
- 2. Total number of staff (Police or Civilian) allocated to firearms license management over the past five years, please break this information down by full-time / part-time / casual, Police officer or civilian and region.*
- 3. Average time for a firearms application to be processed, from receipt of application through to approval or decline. This includes time administration, referee interviews, physical safety checks and background checks. Please break this down by A / B / C / E / P category application trended over the past 3 years. Time could be represented in days or weeks, whichever is easiest.*

The standard firearms licence is known as an A-cat licence; however, B, C, E, and P are not types of licence but types of endorsements that can be added to a licence. In the attached spreadsheet, I have provided the data you requested with licences and endorsements shown separately.

Information about staff by year is not available as staff numbers fluctuate within years and this is not information Police records in a way that is easily retrievable. This information is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

However, Police has previously answered similar questions in 2018 and 2019, and therefore those snapshot responses are provided below.

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## **Police National Headquarters**

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In August 2018, there were 77 full time staff (two of them constabulary) responsible for the administration of the Arms Act 1983. In addition, there were approximately 280 casual staff.

In December 2018, there were 71 permanent and fixed term staff and 262 casual staff.

District	Full Time Equivalent staff (permanent and fixed term)	Firearms Licensing Veters (Casual staff)
Northland	2	13
Waitematā	5	12
Auckland City	4	7
Counties Manukau	4	7
Waikato	3	31
Bay of Plenty	6	16
Eastern	3	17
Central	8	30
Wellington	7	14
Tasman	3	21
Canterbury	8	35
Southern	8	59
Permitting Hub - PNHQ	10	0
Total	71	262

In May 2019, there were 221 fixed term and casual staff and 41 permanent staff (two of these constabulary).

As at 17 June 2021, the number of staff responsible for firearms licensing is shown below, by district and type of employment contract.

As part of the Arms Modernisation Programme, some functions are now performed in centralised locations, and these are denoted as Kapiti and PNHQ. Other constabulary members become involved at different times to support administrative requirements of the Act but are not employed in the firearms groups specifically. Staff on casual contracts are primarily used for vetting purposes.

District	Casual	Fixed Term	Permanent	Total Staff
Northland	8	8	3	19
Waitematā	7	8	11	26
Auckland City	4	2	5	11
Counties Manukau	4	3	3	10
Waikato	11	11	7	29
Bay of Plenty	13	5	7	25
Eastern	12	6	6	24
Central	16	11	6	33
Wellington	4	13	3	20
Tasman	6	11	2	19
Canterbury	16	16	7	39
Southern	19	12	5	36
Kapiti	0	23	33	56
PNHQ	0	23	6	29
Total	120	152	104	376

Between 18 June 2018 and 17 June 2021, Police processed 43,911 standard firearms applications. The average time from application to completion was 103 days.

In the same period, Police processed 5,955 endorsements that were B, C, E, or P. The breakdown of the average time to process these is shown below.

Endorsement Type	Endorsements Processed	Average days from application to completion
B endorsements	1,420	93
C endorsements	1,022	140
E endorsements	651	72
P endorsements	2,862	161

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Mike McIlraith**  
Director Firearms  
Arms Safety and Control