OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT RESPONSE

14 JULY 2022

Official Information Act request:
Roger Calkin, Firearm Interceptions & Seizures 2019 - 2021

NOTES

1. The information in this document was obtained from the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) database. While the information is considered correct at the date it was extracted (14 July 2022), it may be amended or reviewed at any time. This document contains information on the number of firearms intercepted and seized, by year, between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2021.

Terminology

2. When Customs finds prohibited goods or goods that have been, undeclared, mis-declared or undervalued for revenue evasion purposes at the border, it is referred to as an 'interception'. From there Customs takes custody of goods, at which point they are 'detained'. Goods that are 'detained' can be either released back to the importer (usually when conditions/requirements have been met e.g. duty and GST paid, doctor's prescription/permit produced etc.) or formally 'seized'. Seizure is a specific legal action that alters the legal status of the goods and instigates a sequence of legal requirements.

3. Goods which cross the border are either legitimate or prohibited (conditional or absolute). Prohibited goods include controlled drugs and prescription medicines, drug paraphernalia, objectionable material, weapons, copyright/trade mark goods (IPR), items containing endangered species (CITES), and items covered by the Customs Import Prohibition Order (CIPO).

4. If goods are intercepted or detained it is usually because:
   - a person failed to declare them
   - a person made an incorrect declaration or produced false or incorrect documents
   - they are prohibited or restricted
   - a person attempted to evade duty.

5. Customs also detains goods which are abandoned, for example cigarettes and alcohol left at the airport.

6. Customs detains offensive weapons such as flick knives, knuckledusters and concealed weapons under the Customs and Excise Act 2018. Customs also detains restricted weapons such as firearms, parts of firearms and disabling sprays under the Arms Act 1983.

Information requested:

Year	Interceptions		Seizures	
	Quantity	Incidents	Quantity	Incidents
2019	557	146	80	59
2020	167	77	24	22
2021	199	79	30	22

-ends-