

21 February 2023

IR-01-23-167

B Carmichael
fyi-request-21506-49c34480@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora B Carmichael

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 2 January 2023 for information relating to Operation Tauwhiro.

Responses to each question are provided below. Data provided covers the period from the beginning of Operation Tauwhiro (February 2021) to 30 June 2022.

1. *The total number of firearms seized during Operation Tauwhiro.*

The total number seized was 1,804.

2. *The total numbers of each type of firearm (eg pistol, semi automatic, shotgun, bolt action).*

The table below shows the number of firearms located by type, during Operation Tauwhiro.

Table: Firearms located during Operation Tauwhiro (February 2021 – June 2022)

Firearm type	Total
Blank Firing/ Starter Pistol	127
Pistol (including Air)	145
Shotgun (sawn off included)	425
Rimfire .22	298
Centrefire rifle	257
MSSA	61
Air Rifle	38
Miscellaneous/Homemade	46
Incomplete (Part) Firearms	26
Unconfirmed	381
Total	1,804

Notes:

- Data was drawn on 4 July 2022
- 'Unconfirmed firearms' refers to instances where there has been an incomplete recording e.g. 'rifles' and 'pistols'

3. *The source of these firearms (stolen, imported, third party procurement).*

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington SX11149
Telephone: (04) 474 9499. www.police.govt.nz

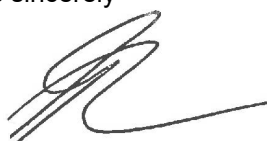
These details were not collected within Operation Tauwhiro data recording. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the OIA, as Police does not hold the information requested.

4. *The number of licensed firearms holders who had firearms seized during this operation.*

The mapping of firearms seized during Operation Tauwhiro, to firearms license holders, was not collected in the data recording framework. Therefore, this part of your request is declined pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Williams', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Williams
Detective Superintendent
Director Organised Crime
Te Ohu Whakamana Taihara o Aotearoa

Appendix 1: Firearms located as part of Operation Tauwhiro, by firearm type and Police district – 19 February – 25 May 2022.

	Blank Firing/ Starter Pistol	Pistol/ (Including Air)	Shotgun (sawn off included)	Rimfire .22	Centrefire rifle	MSSA	Air Rifle	Miscellaneous / Homemade	Incomplete (Part) Firearms	Unconfirmed	Total
Northland	1	5	32	39	18	4	2	0	2	2	105
Auckland City	13	9	25	4	5	3	5	3	0	13	80
Waitemata	19	11	31	28	27	7	0	3	0	14	140
Counties Manukau	15	22	63	44	34	18	6	3	5	2	212
Bay Of Plenty	7	3	55	45	44	3	5	5	4	14	185
Eastern	4	8	45	5	31	4	1	13	1	21	133
Waikato	13	4	23	15	4	2	1	2	1	17	82
Central	7	16	35	21	21	4	1	5	0	7	117
Wellington	3	24	45	25	41	1	2	9	0	0	150
Tasman	0	6	0	5	4	7	6	0	0	24	52
Canterbury	44	30	43	44	13	6	7	1	13	163	364
Southern	1	6	28	23	15	2	2	2	0	16	95
National Organised Crime Group (District Unknown)		1									1
Total	127	145	425	298	257	61	38	46	26	293	1716

Notes:

1. Data was drawn on 25 May 2022
2. Unconfirmed firearms refers to instances where there has been an incomplete recording e.g. 'rifles' and 'pistols'

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