

OIA-2015-2284

31 August 2015

**Alex Harris**

mailto:fyi-request-3014-e38c82fc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Harris

I refer to your email of 4 August 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the frequency of the auditing of Defence Force arsenals, when audits were last conducted, as well as a list of missing items.

The Defence Force inventory management policies apply to all repositories of firearms, ammunition, other weapons and protective equipment. The object of these policies is to ensure that all such items are appropriately stored, accounted for, maintained while in storage and safeguarded.

Periodic part-counting is the Defence Force's primary method for stocktaking: a fraction of all items are counted at regular intervals, so that by year end all items have been enumerated. Special stocktake and audit policies are also applied for some categories of materiel. I decline to disclose the schedule of audits and the dates of the last audits in each series of them under section 6(a) of the OIA. To make this information public would be likely to compromise the security of the Defence Force's weapons inventories.

Even so, official information that does not compromise security unreasonably can be disclosed. Whenever a weapons armoury is entered, for example, a barrel count is conducted on opening and prior to the re-securing of the armoury. In addition, barrel numbers are checked weekly and serial numbers are checked monthly.

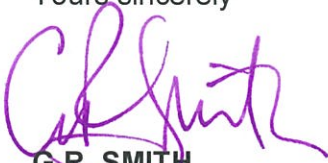
For ammunition, when ammunition is received or issued for or from a pallet of ammunition in an explosives store, the new total or the remaining stock of ammunition is reconciled to the incoming or outgoing stock movement. Monthly totals are also established during cyclic stocktaking.

Personal Protective Equipment is accounted for in the same way as ammunition. A running total is kept of what is in inventory, and the running total is checked monthly during the stocktaking cycle.

All items have been accounted for after the last stocktakes conducted in the various Defence Force locations and armouries.

I trust that this satisfies your request for official information, but you retain the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response.

Yours sincerely



**G.R. SMITH**

Commodore, RNZN  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF