

18 May 2017

Mr Kyle Scott

[Fyi-request-5765-4elad3dl@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:Fyi-request-5765-4elad3dl@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Scott

### Request for Information

I am writing in response to your email dated 21 April 2017, that you sent to the New Zealand Police requesting information pertaining to the ease in which a semi-automatic firearm can be changed into a fully automatic firearm.

Your request was pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982. Your request for information specified:

*On Thursday 20 April Chris Cahill, Police Association President made the statement "its very easy to turn (semi-automatic firearms) these into full automatics and get them into the hands of the criminals".*

*Can the Police please inform me on the number of arrests and seizure of fully automatic firearms in the last 5 years.*

My response is outlined below, I have broken it into two parts, one being for arrests and the other for seized fully automatic firearm.

#### 1. *Number of arrests for fully automatic firearms*

Please note, the databases used to create statistical data on arrests do not specify what type of firearm the arrested person was in possession of. This request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information requested is not held. That is, this information is not quantitatively recorded in police databases.

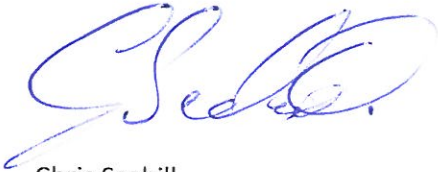
#### 2. *Number of seizures of fully automatic firearms*

There is no actual database that captures this information, the data is held in individual records and in order to respond to this request would necessitate analysis of qualitative data to generate new data, this means the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research, therefore your request is refused pursuant to Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

The Official Information Act 1982 does not require agencies to create information for the purposes of answering requests.

You have the right, pursuant to section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Scahill', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chris Scahill  
Superintendent  
National Manager: Response and Operations