



27 November 2017

Steffan Cavill-Fowler

Email: [fyi-request-6734-0b361175@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6734-0b361175@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr. Cavill-Fowler

#### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

I refer to your letter dated 20 October 2017 in which you requested a response to the question "I am wanting to request copies of any reports, assessment or analysis on any noise omissions or exposures of police members when using issue firearms for police. I would want what testing on firearms or shooting ranges methodologies were conducted on noise exposure."

#### **Sound Testing:**

The RNZPC commissioned sound testing at its indoor ranges in October 2016 and continues to follow up with the specialist to obtain a final report. A report titled "Noise from Small Firing Range: Police College, Porirua prepared by Bel Acoustic Consulting Sound completed in 2006 is attached.

The New Zealand Police has recommended procedures for hearing conservation and the RNZPC abides by these with staff having been personally issued with Grade 5 noise cancelling hearing protection and use of ear plugs as additional protection during Glock programmes.

#### **Air Quality Testing:**

Please find attached an air quality test report completed October 2016. While specifically commissioned to assess the use of FX paintball ammunition, it also covers the fact that all NZ Police indoor ranges use lead free ammunition. All FX ammunition used by RNZPC is now lead free as of July 2016.

#### **Health Monitoring:**

The New Zealand Police have a Health Monitoring process for employees that may be exposed to occupational risk as part of their work. This ensures that any potential harm arising from exposure to a hazard can be appropriately managed.

**Safer Communities Together**

Two documents that may be relevant to your interests in this matter are currently being updated and are therefore withheld under s9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982, while final decisions are made. The two documents are: "Workplace Health Monitoring and testing" and "Hearing Conservation Programme".

These documents are likely to be available in early 2018. If you are interested in these documents, could you please contact Police again early next year to request them

#### Blood Testing:

To establish the risk levels, RNZPC conduct a baseline blood lead level test, Biological Exposure (BEI), for all RNZPC qualified firearms instructor staff nationwide at the beginning of their employment in the role. Annual lead testing then provides monitoring for these firearms staff.

This information is collected as part of the above process. The results are released to NZ Police with the consent of the individual, to appropriately manage any potential risks.

The results will be held on individual Medical Files - this is a separate confidential file and is not stored as part of personnel records. No results will be released for this OIA request due to confidentiality.

I manage the portfolio for the RNZPC and work alongside the RNZPC Health clinic. To my knowledge there have been no results outside of the normal parameters.

#### Hearing Testing:

To establish the risk levels, RNZPC conduct a baseline Hearing test for all RNZPC qualified firearms instructor staff nationwide at the beginning of their employment in the role. Annual testing then provides monitoring for these firearms staff.

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The results will be held on individual Medical Files - this is a separate confidential file and is not stored as part of personnel records. No results will be released for this OIA request due to confidentiality.

I manage the portfolio for the RNZPC and work alongside the RNZPC Health clinic. To my knowledge there have been no results outside of the normal parameters.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request you have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsmen and seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a distinct 'R'.

Inspector Dave Rose  
**Head of School: Response**