



2 August 2021

Our Reference: IR-01-21-22227

Duncan Ross
Email: fyi-request-16104-cf216562@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Duncan

I am writing in response to your request dated 16 July 2021. You wrote:

I'm writing to enquire about the number of guns which are found by police that have been found to have been smuggled across the border without being detected by Customs.

New Zealand Customs Service delivers on the provisions contained in the Customs and Excise Act 2018 and the Arms Act 1983. New Zealand Police issues import permits for firearms and certain parts and the Customs Service checks to ensure that firearms and parts entering New Zealand are clearly identified and match the description on each permit. Should there be a discrepancy, the Customs Service may seize and impound the article at the border. The Customs Service does not retain a record of the identifying information of all the firearms imported into New Zealand.

Only prohibited firearms, restricted weapons, and pistols need to be recorded in the Police systems. Where this type of firearm is seized or found by Police and the serial number is legible, Police will check its records to identify the last known licence holder. However, majority of firearms held by licence holders in New Zealand are not yet required to be listed with Police, so it is not possible to know whether they have entered New Zealand legally or illegally.

Therefore, your request is refused under with section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the requested information is not held. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

Yours sincerely

Superintendent Mike McIlraith
Director Firearms
Arms Safety and Control

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz