

28 November 2023

IR-01-23-35851

Amy T

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Tēnā koe Amy

I am writing to you in response to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 13 November 2023. You asked:

*I am writing to you under the Official Information Act 1982 to seek information regarding the New Zealand Police's policies and procedures concerning the consideration of Freemasons New Zealand membership in the firearms licensing process.*

*Specifically, I am interested in the following details:*

- 1. Does the New Zealand Police review membership of Freemasons New Zealand as part of the firearms licensing process?*
- 2. If Freemasons New Zealand membership is considered in the licensing process, what impact does such membership make in the assessment of an individual's eligibility for a firearms licence?*

I can advise that there is no specific reference to Freemasons membership in the firearms licencing process.

Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority assess Firearms licence applicants against legislative criteria, their chosen referees and personal history information.

To be eligible to apply for a firearms licence, you must:

- be aged 16 or over
- not have had a firearms licence revoked in the last 5 years
- not be a disqualified person from having a firearms licence.

For your application to be successful, Te Tari Pūreke must find that:

- you are a fit and proper person to possess and use firearms
- you have secure storage at your home addresses to store firearms and ammunition
- no one that you live with has had a firearms licence revoked, been disqualified from having a firearms licence, or been found not fit and proper to have and use firearms has access to your firearms and ammunition.

Please see the following link to the Arms Act 1983. Sections 23 determines who can apply for a firearms licence, and 24A provides the criteria for a 'fit and proper' person. Section 22H lists disqualifying offences.

- [Arms Act 1983 No 44 \(as at 24 June 2023\), Public Act – New Zealand Legislation](#)

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Nāku noa, nā



Matt Boddy  
**Deputy Director Operations**  
**Firearms Safety Authority**