

4 September 2017

Mr Malcolm Lock
fyi-request-6442-297f742a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lock

I refer to your email of 19 August 2017 requesting information pertaining to the number of seized firearms that have been returned. Your request was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically requested:

In relation to the information provided in OIA request NZ Police reference 17-6794-1 I wish to know the following information.

Of the 375 firearms seized from firearm licence holders;

- 1. How many were returned to the licence holder from whom they were seized from*
- 2. How many are still being held by the Police pending further investigation or court action*
- 3. How many have been destroyed*

Could this information be provided in the same format as per your response 17-6794-1.

My response is outlined below.

In order to provide you with the information as to how many of the 375 seized firearms were returned to the licence holder, how many are still being held pending investigation or court action and how many were destroyed would mean each file would have to be read through to compile this, therefore your request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

To assist in helping you to understand how the Police arrived at that decision I have outlined below the process that it would take to get you the requested information relating the current status of the firearms that were seized from licenced holders in the financial year 2016/17.

Police will have to have to:

1. Regenerate the data of 375 firearms seized from firearms licence holders in order to identify the file number assigned to the seizure in the National Intelligence Application (NIA) database, this will also give Police the actual number of individual files that need to be reviewed.
2. Enter the NIA occurrence number, open up the occurrence and double check to make sure the correct number has been entered.
3. As the information sought will not be held within NIA but rather as a hard copy document ascertain where the file is currently assigned.
4. Locate and request a hard copy of the file, read through the relevant NIA files, identifying the exhibit number allocated to the seized firearm.
5. If the receipt for return of property is not held within the file, contact the relevant district Property Officer and request the master copy be located, scanned and emailed through for review and collation to the corresponding file.

6. If it is an A category firearm then it may be impossible to identify who the original owner may have been as there is no requirement for the A category serial numbers and other detail to be provided to Police and the firearm may not have been reported as stolen.
7. Receive and read through files, create and collate the required information into a table format.

Depending on the amount of information and speed at which a person reads, this process for each individual entry would likely take between 4-6 mins to complete the process outlined in steps 1-5.

Then upon receiving the firearms exhibit sheet and again depending the speed at which a person reads, the process to read the sheet and transfer the information onto a table would likely take 2-3 minutes for each exhibit sheet.

The exact number of files is yet to be determined but could be as high as 375, then the research and collation of the information required to respond to your request would take 37.5 and 56.25 hours.

It is estimated that it would take between 37.5 hours to 56.25 hours work, based on 375 files. Using the Justice guidelines ([Justice Ministry OIAS charging guidelines](#)) @\$76 per hour (with the first hour free) this would equate to a cost between \$2,850 and \$4,275. Please note that this is an estimate based on the process involved in collating this information. It reflects just the cost of time to fulfil your request, there may be additional charges, for example, retrieval of information off-site, photocopying or printing on standard A4 paper at 20c a page after the first 20 pages.

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

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith
Acting Superintendent
Arms Act Service Delivery Group