



Police National Headquarters  
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27 October 2017

Malcolm Lock

Email: [fyi-request-6449-2ff689fb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6449-2ff689fb@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Lock

#### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

I refer to your request to New Zealand Police dated 20 August 2017, in which you request pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982:

*'What is the agreement between the New Zealand police and TradeMe limited for access to the details of licenced firearm owners?'*

Please note that Police and TradeMe have a new agreement in place, effective from September 2017. This process is designed to prevent the sale of firearms to unlicensed buyers, and provide protection for genuine buyers and sellers of firearms.

The new process is as follows:

1. New Zealand Firearms Licences are controlled by New Zealand Police, who issue, maintain and revoke licences as required under the legislative process provided by the Arms Act 1983 and subsequent amendments.
2. On TradeMe, buyers are required to enter their firearms licence number when they place a bid for firearms or ammunition, or choose the 'buy now' option.
3. TradeMe has been provided with real-time access to the Police register of firearms licences so they can check whether their member has a current New Zealand firearms licence in the following situations:
  - a potential buyer places a bid on an auction
  - a member asks a question on a firearms auction
  - a buyer makes an instant purchase via 'buy now'.
4. Police, through an automated interface, provide a 'Yes/No' response to TradeMe, to identify whether the licence is valid and belongs to that member.
5. No other information from the firearms licence database is provided to TradeMe by Police.

6. No other information about the transaction or the member's TradeMe membership is provided to Police by TradeMe.
7. The real-time licence check does not replace the requirement for sellers to sight the permit issued by Police for mail order/online firearms sales.

I also refer you to the information contained on the TradeMe website about the process.

You can find this information at:

<https://www.trademe.co.nz/trust-safety/2017/8/23/access-police-firearms-database/>

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

Yours sincerely



C L Scott  
Detective Inspector  
Acting National Manager  
National Criminal Investigations Group