

# *Firearms Pānui*



## *Welcome to the Firearms Pānui*

Kia ora koutou

As you're aware, Police is moving from being an administrator of the Arms Act to become the lead Regulator. As a regulator, our purpose is to effectively regulate the legitimate possession and use of firearms to keep all communities safe.

I'm pleased to inform you that the new regulator will be launched with Minister Hipkins later this year with an event in Wellington. We are looking forward to sharing our new name, brand and all the details with you closer to the time.

In this pānui you will find more information about the new regulator and partnerships directorate, our new website, MyFirearms, shooting clubs and ranges updates and recent community engagements.

As we get closer to the launch of the new regulator I will continue to share key information.

Ngā mihi

**Mike McIlraith**

Director Partnerships

Arms Safety and Control

## Updates

### **Building our regulator**

As we become a new regulator, you will also begin to see changes in how we refer to ourselves, what we look like and how we operate. Although still a business unit of Police, we will have our own name, brand and a new website which will be launched along with MyFirearms – online forms. We are also rebranding 100+ current paper-based forms.

## **The partnerships directorate**

In mid-October, final decision were released on our new structure. These decisions are about setting us up as a new regulator in the short to medium term including adding those additional functions we need to operate and to stabilise, strengthen, and build our new Firearms Branded Business Unit.

For the partnership directorate, with an increase in funding, this is our opportunity to build the team to undertake this important work as part of the four E model (engage, educate, encourage, and enforce). The directorate, which I lead, will have nine team members which will enable us to effectively engage with a cross section of communities, individuals, iwi, and organisations. We are endeavouring to recruit our team members by early 2023.

## **Our new website**

We will be launching our new website in the next few months will. This will be in the name and brand of the regulator and will look a little different. We are adding some new information about who we are and our role and updating all our forms to our new branding.

Once we go live, when anyone clicks on Firearms and Safety on the NZ Police website they will be auto directed to our new site.

We are aware that a lot of organisations and business may link to our website. We will be providing more details as soon as we launch, and it would be great if you could update your links to our new website at your earliest convenience following that.

## **MyFirearms - online forms**

Thank you to all of you from the Firearms community who have been part of the development and testing of the new online forms that will be available via MyFirearms. These will be launched on our new website when it goes live in the next few months.

MyFirearms is a secure portal for managing your firearms information. For the first time, applicants will be able to apply and pay online for our seven most common licences and endorsement types plus notify us of change of address, contact details or health practitioner.

The eight forms that are going online in the MyFirearms portal are:

1. Firearms licence application
2. Dealer's licence application (includes Dealer endorsements)
3. Dealer employee endorsement

4. Pistol target shooting endorsement
5. Pest control employer endorsement
6. Pest control employee endorsement
7. Bona fide collector endorsement
8. Notification of change of health practitioner

Firearms licence holders will also be able to notify us of a change of address.

A new Firearms Enquiry Team and 0800 number is being set up to help guide people through the application process should they need it.

The current downloadable PDF process will still be available for people to use should they wish, which will require people to continue to pay at the NZ Post shop.

More information can be found [here](#).

## Shooting clubs and ranges

Our Clubs and Ranges Team are working hard to help prepare the clubs and ranges community for when the final regulations, which are expected to come into in early January 2023. Applications for club approval and range certification must be made before 24 June 2023.

The [Clubs and Ranges web page](#) on the Police website has exposure drafts of application forms, checklists and the New Zealand Police Shooting Range Manual, along with the contact details for shooting range inspectors.

Shooting Range Inspectors have been trained and recognised by Police as having the skill and knowledge required to advise range operators on shooting range certification requirements. We have heard that only a small number of range operators have engaged the services of a Shooting Range Inspector, which is a concern as the availability of shooting range inspectors will be limited during the holiday period. So if you haven't reached out already, we encourage you to get in touch with your local [Shooting Range Inspectors \(PDF\)](#).

Shooting Range Operators are required to have a dealer's licence if they are in the business of selling, hiring, lending or otherwise supplying arms items. The limited exceptions where this requirement does not apply include:

- selling, hiring, lending, or supplying of firearms by a member of a shooting club, if the member -
  - sells, hires, lends, or supplies firearms to a club member, or on club premises, with the approval of the club management committee or a majority vote of club members; and

- the revenue from the sale, hire, lending, or supply of the firearms is used for the benefit of the club.

To understand if this requirement applies, shooting range operator's should review this a [self-assessment tool \(PDF\)](#). If a dealer's licence is required, the operator should apply for a dealer's licence before submitting a range certification application (see [Apply for a dealer's licence](#)).

Business operators that run shooting range experiences should also be aware of the law changes and upcoming regulatory requirements. We are continuing efforts to engage with this stakeholder group.

## Community Engagements

### Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF)

The Firearms Community Advisory Forum acts in a consultative and advisory capacity to Police.

In early October we held a quarterly FCAF meeting at Police National Headquarters. The minutes from the October meeting and any previous minutes are posted [here](#).

At our meeting it was proposed and supported that FCAF expand to include two youth members and have had a number of submissions already. We look forward to expanding the FCAF group.

### Whakatupato course

Last month we successfully ran Whakatupato for some of our firearms community members.

Whakatupato is a firearms safety programme designed specifically for remote and rural communities. The goal of the programme is to ensure firearms users and people around them are safe at all times, and that no-one comes to harm.

The course involves a theory lesson on firearms and hunting safety, and a practical element that includes looking at the components of firearms, how to safety load and unload common types of firearms, transportation consideration and safe handling while in the hunting field.

Seen below, our September participants were connected and engaged with the instructor

throughout the course. We look forward to continuing to connect and contribute to having safer communities and whānau.



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