



## MINUTES : Firearms Community Advisory Forum

<b>SUBJECT</b>	Firearms Community Advisory Forum
<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday 18 July 2018
<b>TIME</b>	0930 - 1300
<b>VENUE</b>	PNHQ, 180 Molesworth Street, Wellington
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	CATHERINE PETREY, GEOFF DUNN, KIRSTY MARSHALL, RACHAEL DEAN, DEBBIE WAKKER, NICOLE MCKEE, , ANDREW EDGCOMBE, MIKE MCILRAITH, , JOE GREEN, MIKE DOWLING, SANDRA LOW, PAUL CLARK, HELEN MORGAN, ADAM SMITH, JERAD WRIGHT, MARK BOYT
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	JOHN HERBERT, BILL O'LEARY

### **Agenda item 1: Welcome and introduction**

The Chair welcomed the Forum's members.

### **Agenda item 2: Confirm previous minutes and update action points**

Previous minutes confirmed.

### **Agenda item 3: Firearms safety practical training and firearms theory test**

From 1 July the online theory test has been available at AA and VTNZ branches. There have been higher numbers than expected sitting the test - 18 at one venue where 2 people failed the test by one point.

Practical training bookings were available from mid-July with the first sessions commencing in early August.

Finding venues for practical training has been a challenge due to unavailability of sites. FENZ sites have not all been available. New venues are being confirmed. Discussion on locations of training - Over 90% of people are within a 1 hour drive from the training locations.

For the remaining 10% of people in remote rural areas, comprehensive one-off sessions are being rolled out. This will consist of a written test immediately followed by a practical training course.

The Mountain Safety Council online booking has been updated.

#### *Police issues*

Q: Is there anything FCAF can do to assist in obtaining more sites?

Police: No – sorting the venue logistics is the main issue.

Q: How frequent will the comprehensive course be?

Police: To be decided. Frequency of access for those 10% will be less than for the majority.

Q: Is the failure rate mentioned due to non-comprehension?

A: The AA gives reading assistance to help people comprehend. The written test is at a 12 year old comprehension/reading age.

Statistics will be collected regarding pass and fail rates. Police does not agree that everyone passed in the old system – some people possibly failed because they couldn't read the written language (English) - or that instructors "allowed" people to pass. It is agreed that people need to know why they have failed.

This will be an evolutionary process. Arms officers will follow up fails. It will take some time to build up statistics and there will be no ability to compare figures from the past. We will build up a new picture.

Q: Can we have a dashboard of key statistics? Can FCAF members input into what information will be recorded on dashboard? Circulate prior to meeting.

**ACTION POINT:** Police to draft a dashboard on numbers going through new firearms safety programme (training component and theory test) and circulate a draft to obtain ideas on what other statistics should be included.

Q: Are warranted instructors ready to go in August?

A: Just over half.

Q: Are all positions filled?

A: 99% are filled

Q: If theory test completed online, will sitters have to wait for result?

A: Yes.

Q: What about the contracting process for the training? RFP/RFQ?

A: Police had a limited budget, used a cost effective option.

MSC – The course are 99% full online. 21 scheduled. Some slowdown in bookings has been due to the lack of locations/venues.

Will review schedule of training sessions over next three months. Can adjust the schedule going forward based on enrolment spikes.

One member observed that the questions are "hunter based" and asked will this be monitored to ensure it does not affect pass rates by non-hunters?

Police will be able to analyse how people respond to the questions (and on that basis assess the wording of the questions), e.g. if one question is always answered incorrectly, the possibility could be raised that there is an issue around the question, or the wording, rather than the knowledge and competency of the person taking the test. Some feedback from people who have taken or reviewed the test, is that some questions are considered to be ambiguous. Some colloquial language may also be presenting challenges for some clients.

Q: Is there a practical test or just practical training?

A: Training. To be compliant with the Arms Regulations as currently worded Police changed the terminology from practical 'test' to 'training'. A minor technical amendment to the Regulations is needed to allow both technical and practical testing as envisaged in the Act.

Police's intention was to progress an amendment to the Arms Regulations to allow for electronic applications etc.: however, the demand on the Parliamentary Counsel Office has slowed down the timeframe on this.

**ACTION POINT:** Share progress with the rolling out of practical training with relevant FCAF members.

At this point advice from some FCAF members has been incorporated in the development of training.

Q: Does pig hunting have any particularities that need to be covered in training?

A: Training is focussed on firearms safety overall and not designed to be specific to one type of use.

Roadshow = Clubs and groups give support.

Q: What's the role of documentation around clubs?

There was some discussion around making club membership for all licence holders compulsory. Police cannot require it as there is no legislative provision (and there is not a firearms club in every location for people to join).

A member commented that this lack of clubs adds to the rural 10% being the most vulnerable group.

A suggestion was made that an online help desk for clients to discuss the Arms Act before taking the test would be useful.

Police asked if a guidance document existed to support people in a mentoring/coaching role for new licence holders. A member confirmed that there is a guidance document in development.

There could be a link on Police website to different firearm organisations and a list of clubs.

**ACTION POINT:** FCAF member to provide lists of firearm organisations and clubs to Police.

People may not meet with Police to discuss firearms until they start licence process. This makes clubs important. Could be the first point of contact someone has at practical training. Discussions can take place around mentoring, although this requires some caution.

Forum idea – MSC instructors are local and could advise local groups. A MSC guidance document is in the works.

It was mentioned that there was a possible issue with the contract with MSC and recommended that an audit be undertaken to look at deliverables.

#### **Agenda item 4: Communication**

Police asked members to push out any emails to members, they have sitting in their inbox. It was stated that FCAF members are sometimes unsure if the information forwarded to them from Police could be shared further or if it is for internal discussion only. A member thanked Police for sending data about permit information, but said that there was no reply when she asked if she could share the information. The member was concerned that an opportunity to share information had been missed.

**ACTION POINT:** Police to confirm if import permit information can be distributed wider.

**ACTION POINT:** Police agreed to include in the email heading of future communications with FCAF whether they can be distributed more widely or are for FCAF only.

#### **Agenda item 5: Safety Messages from FCAF**

FCAF members reported actions they had taken to promote safe handling.

Firearms Safety Council of Aotearoa gave ZB Interview - Safety messages for ROAR and duck shooting seasons.

Firearm Safety Specialists NZ Ltd: Regular messages on TradeMe and Facebook.

Hunting and fishing can lever off existing magazines and networks such as TradeMe that already reach many firearms users, to get the safety message across.

MSC – extensive messaging through Facebook and online - 688,000 people have been reached.

The costs and benefits of Police presence at gun shows was discussed. The main points were that it costs money, but gives many benefits such as gaining the trust of the public and youth and safety to a wider group than normally achievable. Any Police interactions with the public were deemed a good thing.

**ACTION POINT:** Customs and Police to discuss presence at the Shot Expo offline. Police to look at opportunity to make greater use of their presence at the Expo and to consider making available 'online tests' on the day of the expos.

#### **Agenda item 6: Arms Code**

There was discussion on Arms Code Action Points from the last meeting:

1. Arms Code: progressing.
2. Video Links for Arms Code from FCAF: None received. AP Closed.
3. Arms Code hard copy print: It is currently undecided if the 2018 Code will also be in hard copy form (as well as online). There was discussion around the possibility of 'user pays', cost recovery and ensuring rural proofing. There will be a PDF online that can be printed off. A suggestion was that Police develop a mobile application that individuals can access on their phones while out and about.

#### **Agenda item 7: Safe Secure Storage**

Q to Police: What are you doing about people who rent and cannot drill holes into their walls to comply with the Regulations?

A: This will be discussed at the meeting of the subcommittee after this FCAF meeting. It is related to Agenda item 9 below.

### **Agenda item 8: Administration of Arms Act**

Police is working toward better communication, timeliness of services, more highly trained people, online services (Electronic transactions – Regulations).

In online transactions someone recommended the use of RealMe. This was decided against because of passport and NZTA registration requirements. Linking IRD numbers for validation was also suggested. This would also be a challenge as IRD has extra privacy considerations.

Police needs to be 100% satisfied the person is who they say they are; working on this.

A member stated that feedback from the public described the recent Police roadshows as 'good' and 'valuable.' Road trips should be more frequent.

Police stated there were some tough audiences with very negative body language during the roadshow. During information delivery these audiences relaxed somewhat. The firearms community are very passionate good people and warmed once they understood Police want to help and want to work together, while balancing the wider public interest.

Mike McIlraith is travelling to Northern Ireland and Scotland to review their systems and how they work. The reason that these countries are of interest is because Northern Ireland has gone fully paperless, and Scotland is near paperless. It was explained that New Zealand Police will not go fully paperless, but are looking to observe an effective paperless system in action. The process and systems are the focus for this trip, not legislation.

The point was made that this is a budget trip with no luxuries.

A member asked if the information on the planned Police travel could be shared. Police answered affirmatively.

### **Agenda item 9: Building a Relationship with Property Groups**

Police has approached New Zealand Property Investors Federation and discussed the issue of whether renters may have difficulties with secure storage in rental properties. It was suggested that FCAF develop a relationship directly with property groups whereby they can approach each other for guidance and discussion on difficulties.

A FCAF member commented that the New Zealand Property Investors Federation do not represent all landlords.

It was stated that the intent is to open up some lines of communication, show how the guidelines work and start the discussions.

It was proposed that the secure storage sub-committee would write to the Property Investors Federation as a first step.

**ACTION POINT:** The sub-committee to approach the Property Investors Association

**ACTION POINT:** Look at possible insurance industry issues and Body Corp rules. FCAF member (to be determined).

It was decided that the secure storage subcommittee could do the work on this.

### **Agenda item 10: General Business**

A question around firearms imports statistics was posed. Statistics New Zealand holds import information which is publicly available

Members are having difficulty with import permits for A Category parts and are being refused importations.

It was stated that things have changed and there is no consistency.

Police stated that there has been no 'policy' change. The permit process has been centralised and this is providing consistency.

The discussion then focussed on the treatment of components that could be for an A category firearm or a MSSA part, where there is sufficient information to know the components are genuinely for an A category firearm. It was noted by one FCAF member that such applications continue to be progressed and there is such an example on the June table of Permit applications of refused imports. In that instance a dealer had applied for a barrel for an A category firearm and was informed that a permit was not required.

Following the discussion, the meeting asked that Police re-look at the information on Police's internet site with a view to making it clearer particularly with regard to the importation of MSSA parts where they are genuinely for an A category firearm.

Question: Can one convert an A category to an E category firearm?

Police: Yes. A person must have been granted, or have applied for a general MSSA Firearm endorsement (POL 67H). To make the endorsement specific to a MSSA not acquired through a import permit or permit to procure the applicant needs to make application through completing a POL67X. This asks the applicant for the reason for possession of the MSSA firearm. Common reasons include to restore an A category firearm back to a MSSA as part of a collection, or for use in a competition in an event at an incorporated sports club..

**ACTION POINT:** Police to produce process charts for 'A' Cat Import permits, and clarify advice on the Police website, with this being shared with FCAF first.

Question: Is Police drafting a new firearms Bill?

Answer: No.

Question: Is there a season or a time of the year that import numbers rise?

Answer: Yes. Usually when there are international Firearms Expo etc.

There was discussion regarding Australian competitors who require 'E' Cat licences for their competition in NZ.

**ACTION POINT:** Police to clarify 'E' Cat licence process for Australian or other international visitors in NZ for shooting competitions and put this on the website.

Police has been monitoring the NCCC for firearms incidents but due to other work demands a report has not been compiled. Police will keep FCAF updated.

There was some discussion on If it is left to the Arms Officers to discuss with the industry there are likely to be inconsistencies. Need to think about training on this issue and a possible process for escalation of issues?

OIA responses on firearms matters (with data) are now on the Police website so it would be helpful for this to be communicated to members widely.

Meeting Concluded 1155hrs.

**AGREED ACTIONS:**

<b>ACTION POINTS JULY MEETING</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
POLICE TO DRAFT A DASHBOARD ON NUMBERS GOING THROUGH NEW FIREARMS SAFETY PROGRAMME (TRAINING COMPONENT AND THEORY TEST) AND CIRCULATE A DRAFT ON OTHER STATISTICS COULD BE INCLUDED. .	POLICE	
UPDATE FCAF ON LOCATIONS OF TRAINING AVAILABILITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY.	POLICE	
FCAF MEMBER TO PROVIDE LISTS OF FIREARM ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS TO POLICE.	FCAF	
POLICE TO CONFIRM IF IMPORT PERMIT INFORMATION CAN BE DISTRIBUTED WIDER.	POLICE	
POLICE AGREED TO INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL HEADING OF FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH FCAF WHETHER THEY CAN BE DISTRIBUTED MORE WIDELY OR ARE FOR FCAF ONLY.	POLICE	
CUSTOMS AND POLICE TO DISCUSS PRESENCE AT GUN SHOWS OFFLINE. POLICE TO LOOK AT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AVAILABLE 'ONLINE TESTS' ON THE DAY OF EXPOS.	POLICE/CUSTOMS	
LOOK AT POSSIBLE INSURANCE INDUSTRY ISSUES AND BODY CORP RULES.	FACF MEMBER	
POLICE TO PRODUCE PROCESS CHARTS FOR 'A' CAT IMPORT PERMITS, AND CLARIFY ADVICE ON THE POLICE WEBSITE, WITH THIS BEING SHARED WITH FCAF FIRST.	POLICE	
POLICE TO CLARIFY 'E' CAT LICENCE PROCESS FOR AUSTRALIAN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL VISITORS IN NZ FOR SHOOTING COMPETITIONS AND PUT THIS ON THE WEBSITE.	POLICE	