



## MINUTES : Firearms Community Advisory Forum

<b>SUBJECT</b>	Firearms Community Advisory Forum
<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday 13 December 2018
<b>TIME</b>	0930 - 1230
<b>VENUE</b>	PNHQ, 180 Molesworth Street, Wellington
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	CATHERINE PETREY, GEOFF DUNN, DEBBIE WAKKER, NICOLE MCKEE, ANDREW EDGCOMBE, MIKE MCILRAITH, JOE GREEN, SANDRA LOW, PAUL CLARK, HELEN MORGAN, ADAM SMITH, JARED WRIGHT, JOHN HERBERT, PETER FURLEY, TIM WATSON, EWAN KELSALL, RAY VINE, PETER NOBLE, PENN FORREST
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	KIRSTY MARSHALL, RACHAEL DEAN

### Agenda item 1: Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed the new Forum members, Tim Watson and Peter Furley.

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

Previous minutes confirmed with updates (Attached).

ACTION POINTS FROM AUGUST MEETING	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
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.	POLICE	COMPLETED. COPIES OF CURRENT RESULTS PROVIDED TO FCAF MEMBERS.
SHARE PROGRESS WITH THE ROLLING OUT OF PRACTICAL TRAINING WITH RELEVANT FCAF MEMBERS.	POLICE	COMPLETED. PROGRAMME UPDATE IS PART OF MAIN AGENDA.
FCAF MEMBER TO PROVIDE LISTS OF FIREARM ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS TO POLICE.	FCAF	CLOSED. NO RETURNS RECEIVED FROM FCAF MEMBERS.
POLICE TO CONFIRM IF IMPORT PERMIT INFORMATION CAN BE DISTRIBUTED WIDER.	POLICE	COMPLETED. WEBSITE INFORMATION RELEASE.
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	COMPLETED
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.	POLICE	COMPLETED. A/SUPT MIKE MCILRAITH ATTENDED SIKA SHOW. DECISION ON ATTENDING SHOT EXPO PENDING. ONLINE TESTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE TO APPROACH THE PROPERTY INVESTORS ASSOCIATION	FCAF	IN PROGRESS. NO ACTION TAKEN TO DATE. LEFT WITH FCAF MEMBERS TO TAKE ACTION.
LOOK AT POSSIBLE INSURANCE INDUSTRY ISSUES AND BODY CORP RULES. FCAF MEMBER (TO BE DETERMINED).	FCAF	IN PROGRESS. NO ACTION TAKEN TO DATE. LEFT WITH FCAF MEMBERS TO TAKE ACTION.
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	COMPLETED. WEBSITE UPDATE. PROCESS CHART TO FOLLOW.
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	COMPLETED. PROCESS AGREED FOR DEALING WITH APPROPRIATE SHOOTING ORGANISATIONS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

### **Agenda item 3: Administration of Arms Act – modernisation update**

The modernisation of the Visitor Licence system entails a new online visitor licence process. FCAF was provided with a demonstration of how the online system will work once operational.

The new system will enable applicants to:

1. Apply online using a RealMe account.
2. Be tested on their understanding of the Arms Code, seven safety rules and firearms storage requirements
3. Apply for a visitor licence and a permit to import firearms in the one form.
4. Create a personal profile. This means that future visits will see the applicant only having to update information rather than fully complete the application again.
5. To bring firearms with them will no-longer have to let MFAT know that these firearms are being exported, as the system will do the notification.
6. Pay online using their credit card, thereby removing the need to pay cash at airport Police stations.
7. Email notifications and updates are automated to keep the applicant up to date with the process and results.

The project is looking at implementation in March/April but this is flexible to account for changes, so may take longer.

FCAF members provided positive feedback, offered some suggestions for minor improvements.

### **Agenda item 4: Firearms safety practical training and firearms theory test**

Since 1 July 2018 the new Firearms Safety Programme has been underway. This programme requires a first time firearms licence applicant to undertake theoretical and practical handling training and assessment as part of their application process. The online theory test uses the NZTA driver licensing test system and has been available at AA and VTNZ branches. Feedback to Police on challenges with this system is that the inability to book a theory test at AA or VTNZ is problematic and having to travel twice (one to theory and one to practical training) is not ideal for

many licence applicants. There has also been a request for more locations for practical training from Federated Farmers, Rural Women and the Animal Game Council.

To address these issues Police proposed that the theory and practical sessions be brought together. Bringing them together would see a firearms licence applicant only having to travel once provided they passed the assessment. In practical terms, this means that an applicant will still be required to learn the Arms Code. At a course, applicants will sit the theory test (using scratchy tests) and then undertake the practical training. Any applicant that failed the theory test will then be given a second attempt after the practical training has been completed.

FCAF supported the move to one session involving both theory and practical training. One member of FCAF reinforced the need for instructors to be trained to administer the test and that moderation of training delivery must take place.

Police will communicate this change to the public as soon as all the background detailed work is completed.

### **Agenda item 5: Arms Code Update**

The document has been drafted and is awaiting final reading before being sent out to FCAF for comments and feedback. It is in individual word documents to simplify the feedback process. All feedback is welcome.

Some FCAF members raised concerns regarding the use of military language in the Arms Code that is not in common usage in the general firearm owner's vocabulary, such as "Instant", and "Action". The view was that wording in the Arms Code should contain use commonly used language to ensure ease of understanding and compliance.

Police will share the draft Arms Code with FCAF once further work is done on it and before it is finalised

### **Agenda item 6: Ministers Hon Stuart Nash and Hon Ron Mark**

Having arrived back from Australia the Minister of Police briefly mentioned Australian gang issues, Firearm Prohibition Orders, and the export of gang members back to NZ.

There was some discussion about the Government's commitment to increasing Police numbers and how this was progressing.

Deputy Commissioner Mike Clement spoke to FCAF. Main points were:

There have been communications from within the firearms community suggesting there is a lack of sincerity from the Police Executive on firearms matters. It can be affirmed there is no intention to cause difficulties for the legitimate firearms community.

Police as administrators of the Act must at times interpret what the Government's intention was when it was drafted. It is something that any administering agency must work through. When something is hard to interpret the courts help provide clarity.

We understand the plea is for consistency and clarity. Police is genuinely trying to change and to provide consistency, this will take time and is a work in progress. Acting Superintendent Mike McIlraith has been supporting the changes and is committed to further implementation of improvements. One pressure point Police faces is that the money currently collected from fees does not cover the cost of administering the Arms Act and work is being done in this area.

Police has a real concern with the safety of front line staff, who are increasingly being confronted at incidents by criminals with firearms. The number of firearms in the hands of offenders is growing. The balance is to stem the flow of firearms to criminals while trying to minimise any disruption to 'fit and proper' owners. The reality for frontline police is the rapidly changing environment and dramatic increase in criminals presenting firearms. In relation to these issues, the IPCA and Police are discussing options to build a broader understanding of the firearms environment and a possible thematic review is being discussed, although a final decision on this has yet to be made.

There was an FCAF question regarding the firearms management role currently held by Mike McIlraith. This was a permanent position six years ago and there is an impression that it has since become temporary and a less than sought after position. Could this change to ensure consistent management?

DC Clement advised that Police is committed to change, but the budget for administering the Arms Act is finite, and there are numerous competing priorities. There are services not being charged for that take up significant Police resources and each area needs to be looked at and prioritised.

There was further discussion on public trust and confidence and the disconnection between police safety and exposure to firearms and the extent to which the firearms community may see or appreciate this.

To finish up – FCAF is a valuable tool for bettering the relationships between Police, Customs and MFAT, other relevant agencies and the firearms community.

FCAF members thanked Deputy Commissioner Clement for his attendance.

Director Policy and Partnerships, Jeremy Wood introduced himself

Mentioned that changes are needed and the exact nature of these changes are being worked through. Mentioned the good work of people in the background.

### **Legislation update**

Technical changes to Arms Regulations to allow for electronic transactions may be approved by Cabinet on Monday. [These Amendment Regulations have since been gazetted and came into effect on 17 January 2019.]

There is work being undertaken looking at costs of administering the Arms Act. An options paper will go out for consultation outlining full cost recovery, options for achieving this.

### **Next meetings**

Proposed FCAF meeting dates 2019:

- 21 March 2019 (Now 14<sup>th</sup> March PNHQ)
- 25 July 2019
- 12 December 2019

These were confirmed with FCAF.

Meeting Concluded 1240hrs.

**AGREED ACTIONS:**

ACTION POINTS JULY MEETING	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
A/SUPT MCILRAITH TO SEND FCAF EMAIL WITH THE SAFETY TRAINING NUMBERS HANDED OUT TODAY IN THE MEETING.	POLICE	COMPLETED
A/SUPT MCILRAITH TO WORK OUT DOCUMENTATION ON THEORY TESTS AND GET FEEDBACK FROM FCAF.	POLICE	COMPLETED
TO REVIEW THE PROS AND CONS OF MAKING FCAF A STATUTORY BODY BY 21 MARCH 2019.	POLICE POLICY GROUP	UNDER ACTION
INVITE TO INSPECTOR TREVOR PULLEN NEXT MEETING	POLICE	COMPLETED