



MINUTES : Firearms Community Advisory Forum

SUBJECT	Firearms Community Advisory Forum
DATE	Wednesday 6 March 2018
TIME	1300 – 1600hrs
VENUE	PNHQ, 180 Molesworth Street, Wellington
ATTENDEES	CATHERINE PETREY, GEOFF DUNN, KIRSTY MARSHALL, RACHAEL DEAN (ARRIVED 1315), DEBBIE WAKKER, NICOLE MCKEE, JOHN HERBERT, ANDREW EDGCOMBE, MIKE MCILRAITH, BILL O'LEARY, JOE GREEN, MIKE DOWLING (REPLACING PAUL CLARK), MIKE DAISLEY (REPLACING ADAM SMITH), PENELOPE FORREST, PETER NOBLE, SANDRA LOW ALASTAIR WILLIAMS, TREVOR PULLEN, GARTH DEN HEYER (1400 – 1445HRS)
APOLOGIES	PAUL CLARK, HELEN MORGAN, ADAM SMITH

Agenda item 1 – Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed the Forum's members. Everyone advised of safety procedures, and evacuation protocol.

There was discussion on streamlined minutes and the advantages and disadvantages of the application of Chatham House Rules and it was decided that they would be retained. If however, a FCAF member wanted to have a particular point recorded and attributed to them then the minutes would reflect that. In all other cases discussion points will be summarised in the minutes.

Agenda item 2 – Confirm previous minutes and update action points

Previous minutes confirmed.

Agenda item 3 – Firearms safety training

Police updated FCAF that progress on changes to the training of first time firearms licence holders was well underway. Details could not be gone into as negotiations were still underway with providers.

Agenda item 4 – Range certification

There was discussion around range certification for Pistol New Zealand ranges. Police and Pistol New Zealand are working together to address current delays in Police providing review and certification documentation back to Pistol New Zealand.

Agenda item 5: Brokering Bill

The Bill's first reading was just prior to the 2017 Election. It was reinstated by the new Government before the Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee and public submissions were called for. MFAT is currently analysing the submissions and drafting the Departmental Report back to the Select Committee. There appears to be no major areas of concern raised by the submissions. There is an aspect of *mens rea* and territorial scope of the Bill raised and these are being looked at by legal advisors. There were approximately a dozen submissions.

The process from here is that the Departmental Report will be looked at by Select Committee which will then report to Parliament with recommendations. There may be some re-drafting in a revised tracked version of the Bill submitted by the Committee and then a 2nd reading. MFAT is unsure of the timeframe, maybe 3-6 months, but hard to know at this time. It is expected that it will be enacted by the end of 2018.

Agenda item 6: Minister of Police, Hon Stuart Nash

Items traversed in the discussion included:

- Police building a positive working relationship with the firearms user community.
- Police being consistent in service delivery across the country.
- Resourcing for Arms Act administration requirements in Police districts.
- Secure storage of firearms and in particular ensuring consistency of application of standards across the districts.
- Costs to Police of administering the Arms Act and the income from licences and endorsement application fees.
- Rural proofing policies applied to Arms Act administration.
- Implications for licensing if fees are increased.
- Mental health issues and the delivery of mental health services, particularly in rural communities
- The unknown size of the civilian armoury.
- Police Association commentary.

ACTION POINT: Police are to provide FCAF with a breakdown of revenue and costs associated with administering the Arms Act.

Agenda item 7: Arms Code

Police has been working on modernising the Arms Code and making it available online.

The first draft of the new Arms Code was reviewed in February by Nicole McKee (FSS), Bill O'Leary (Deer Stalkers) and Adam Smith (MSC). Feedback from Nicole and Bill (Adam was not at the FCAF meeting) was positive and they felt that their suggestions had been taken on board. The expectation is that the end product will be good and will be modern with up-to-date images.

A concern was raised that the timing of bringing on a new Arms Code while undertaking an assessment of the administration, and changing the licencing and training might be too much change too quickly. FCAF also felt that a hard copy of the Code should be made available. Police stated printing of the Arms Code would involve costs being met by the users.

ACTION POINT: Police to consider printing hard copies of the new Arms Code.

Police were asked how much they were spending on safety advertising in the lead up to the roar and duck seasons.

ACTION POINT: Police to report back on safety messaging around the roar and duck shooting and costs of the advertising.

Agenda item 8: Safe storage

Police provided an update on the safe storage work. Next steps are:

- Subcommittee will review the draft policy and submissions report.
- Draft policy and submissions report will then be shared with all FCAF members.
- Public release will take place two weeks after FCAF members receive the documents.
- Public will have a four week opportunity to provide further submissions.

Agenda item 9: Administration of Arms Act

Police are actively investigating options for improving the administration of the Arms Act. Police has also advanced work seeking changes to the Arms Regulations to enable electronic applications to be used once an electronic platform is in place; paper processes will remain in place and run side by side with any future electronic system.

Agenda item 10: Mental health

Police mental health team are working with Ministry of Health and have been discussing the best approach to manage risks with individuals with firearms licences who might become mentally unwell. Having a mental health issue does not automatically preclude someone gaining or keeping their firearms licence. Discussions are in the early stages and more work is required.

Agenda item 11: Forum vacancies

There are two vacancies on FCAF due to the dealer/wholesaler and retailer representatives leaving. Three names were put forward for consideration and discussed.

ACTION POINT: FCAF members are to submit nominations to the secretariat before the next meeting.

Agenda item 12: General Business

Police raised the issue of using the Police logo. All were reminded that Police and the firearms user community and other groups or organisations will work together on specific activities but this will always be supported by a specific agreement. Police logo cannot be used without permission.

Discussed Police making efforts to get wider awareness of data that is available and Police is moving to a more proactive release of OIAs so the data can be read with the associated caveats and explanations.

There was a round table invitation for final comments this included: positive feedback about the Minister's attendance and openness; summary of the recent Shot Expo noting that the security was first class, attendance was up to 7.5k; and the FCAF meeting remained a valuable forum.

Confirmed next meeting Wednesday 18 July 2018, 0930 – 1230hrs.

Meeting Concluded 1555hrs.

AGREED ACTIONS:

ACTION POINTS MARCH MEETING	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
Report back on printing Arms Code.	POLICE	
Report back on safety messaging around the Roar and Duck shooting and on the costs of advertising.	POLICE	
FCAF members are to submit nominations for the dealer/wholesaler and retailer representatives to the secretariat before the next meeting.	FCAF	
Supply figures on revenue from fees in Regulations and costs of administering the Arms Act.	POLICE	