



AGENDA: Firearms Community Advisory Forum

MEETING	Firearms Community Advisory Forum
DATE	Thursday, 6 October 2022
TIME	09:30 – 12:30
VENUE	Police National Headquarters, 180 Molesworth Street; Rooms 15.3 and 15.4.
ATTENDEES	Steve Goodman, Ross Mason, Gwyn Thurlow, Andrew Edgecombe, Gary Elmes, Joe Green, Peter Furley, Jared Wright, Angela McLeod, Roger Duxfield, Tim Gale, Andrew Bakker, Peter Noble, Mark Walker, Peter Thomas, Supt Mike McIlraith, Catherine Petrey
PRESENTERS	NZP: Firearms Regulatory Unit: Executive Director Angela Brazier, Gautam Mangar, Laura Gielstad, Sam Feder, Richard Keeys. NZP: Firearms Investigation Team, NOCG: DSS Mike Beal.
APOLOGIES	Piripi Curtiss, Hamish Wilson, John Herbert, Steve O'Donnell, Ewan Kelsall, Don Rood.

ITEM	AGENDA ITEM
1	Welcome, apologies, processes, and meeting rules
2	Confirm previous minutes and action points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and approved
3	<p>Arms Information System (AIS) update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions were raised on the update • Demonstration of online application form • Use of RealMe / would 2-factor authentication include text option? • Upload of birth certificate – would birth certificate pre1998 be accepted? [Later advice received confirmed they would be accepted] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The form is intended to enable provision of identity documents that are relevant to the person ○ Pre-1998 are likely to have existing passport, drivers licence, firearms licence etc to upload instead • Fees are displayed before the summary page • Online form includes evidence of online payment • Payment will be able to be made using credit, and debit (Visa, Mastercard and Prezzi card) The bank charges will be included in the fee and that portion of the payment passed on to the relevant bank. • Eftpos or internet banking option will not be available in the first release of the Arms Information System. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police confirmed the credit card details will not be held by Police ○ Question about whether the banks credit card fee is legal – yes, it is not a payment to Police it is a payment to the Bank. • Payment at post office and paper application forms remain available • The digital process is designed to streamline the application process so when applying for a future licence or endorsement only changes to information needs to be updated • Police is developing a communication package to support the release of online forms. FCAF members are welcome to indicate to their groups that Police intent is to digitise content as much as possible but to also reassure the public that paper application forms will remain available.

4

Launch of the new Regulator & Update on the Regulatory Strategy

- Since obtaining funding to increase resource for the current financial year, the regulatory unit has put in considerable hard work to clear the backlog in applications at a time when dealing with considerable change
- This time last year, we were developing the Business Case for the new Unit – we got \$208m for the next 4 years. Whole of life funding was \$711m over 11 years → funding became available from July 22
- Funding allows for 181 additional positions (70% growth). Positions will be filled with a mix of experienced staff and those new to the business – productivity has increased significantly as new employees are getting their heads round the work required
- The positions and associated position descriptions are being finalised which includes a consultation document being sent to staff next week. There will be some changes to staff titles/roles etc but no intent to reduce the number of staff
- The new unit will be in place in early Dec 22
- Structural change – A number of changes have been made and include the placing of 12 area arms managers in each District to triage and prioritise current applications. Although based in each District they report and are funded centrally and there is no longer a risk of their being diverted into other Police work. The aim is to achieve speedier and more consistent quality of implementation and decision making.
 - One member advised of recent reports to him of inconsistent advice on security requirements with some veters taking an unnecessarily hard line. This member would like to see greater education of staff who have direct engagement with the community.
 - FCAF members were reminded that if they have concern that there has been unfair or incorrect interpretation of the requirements this can be referred through Supt McIlraith and the matter can be followed up. This will help in the training and development of staff particularly those who are relatively new to the business.
- Piloting a new “Targeted renewal approach” for applications for second and subsequent licences. A trial was started on 50 applications, now expanded to 250. This will help manage application files in more effective ways without introducing additional individual or community risk but increases productivity. Assuming no process issues are identified, the regulatory unit will be looking to expand the pilot in districts.
- Number and age of applications in the backlog is reducing

Launch of new Business Unit

- This will be at the end of Nov – when the name, and logo will be announced. The new online forms (Release 1) and website will be available too.
- The Wellington based staff will be moving to Rugby House as part of our business unit establishment
- Developing a formal strategy
- Release 2 – the Registry goes live in June 23. First function will be to upload firearms and gradual roll out across 5 years.
 - Is the stuff already populated re restricted weapons in NIA going to be re-entered? No. Everything will need to be provide by the endorsement holder. Once done Police will do a stocktake to make sure the info is correct.
- Will the new entity still have Police’s pay structure?
Yes. Staff are still employed by NZ Police.
- Where will the information be coming from if there are two information systems (Police NIA and Unit’s AIS) which aren’t connected? NIA and AIS will be connected because both arms staff and frontline Police need the information. Arms Information System will be the parent-system for information relating to licence holders. There will be an information interface with NIA.

	<p>Will all these changes mean New Zealanders will be safer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be performance measures? • This is a main reason for the establishment of a firearms system oversight group to be chaired by Commissioner. Other CEs/DCEs who have responsibility for aspects of the arms system are planned to be part of the group. The proposal is that they will meet 3-4 times a year. Their First meeting is planned for December this year. They will be tasked to give oversight to the wider system both the regulated and illicit use of firearms and ammunition. Their task is to identify the key performance indicators which measure the effectiveness of the controls and interventions. • A member noted that measures will likely be reduction in suicides, reports of stolen firearms, reduction in number of firearms-related criminal activity including homicides and threatening behaviour. <p>Will the names of the members of the oversight group be publicly available? Yes, once established.</p> <p>How to measure progress as the number of firearms held legally and illegally now is unknown and those held illegally are not going to be registered?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a long-term piece of work. The registry will give oversight of the legally held firearms and assist prevent the ready transfer into the illicit market. • What are the figures for the firearms incidence with gangs? What is the size of the issue that we have? This will be covered in Item 6 on the Agenda on Serious Crime. <p>Do you have an update on the backlog of licence applications?</p> <p>Action point: to send out up to date numbers (eg end of September) data on licence applications in the pipeline.</p>
5	<p>Presentation on Communications approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and education approach – detail not confirmed yet • Phase 1 – awareness of new regulatory unit, purpose etc. • Phase 2 – April 2023 educating licence holders about the registry requirements and when individual licence holders will be required to enter in the registry records of firearms and other specified arms items they are holding • A multi-channel marketing campaign will be used • The focus is on helping New Zealanders understand what licence holders and the regulatory unit are doing how together their actions help keep NZ safe <p>Communications and stakeholder engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there funding available for people passing the message on? Police will look at all options and have engaged an external organisation to support media and engagement strategy • A communications pack with key messages will be provided to FCAF the day the regulator is announced.
6	<p>Serious Crime [slides not to be distributed]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some information about where firearms are coming from • March 2019 changed culture in Police • Retail firearms diversion (RFD) – supply of lawfully purchased firearms by firearms licence holder to be supplied to unlicensed persons, and is a significant contributor to crimes. • Team has a specific focus on use of RFD for the firearms licence holders buying guns on behalf of gangs and criminal associates who do not have licences

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S 45 Arms Act 1983 has weak defence (unlawful possession), just say you sold it to another firearms licence holder. It's difficult to prove firearms offences right now. • Another member is concerned about retailers being targeted. Police negates risk by prosecuting up the RDF person. Member noted that bulk upload of blacklisted licence holders is possible, but this is not consistent across retailers. Wants dealers to work with Police to share information quickly. • Member noted a higher prevalence of fake licences and cash purchase • The registry will in part automate the analysis and data searching that the RFD team is doing • This is all part of the wider changes to the monitoring regime
7	<p>Firearms Safety Code update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously named the Arms Safety Code • Started changes in 2018 • Build largely on existing code. Intent to modernise and clarify complex fundamental areas • Supplementary information for novice shooters and give a head start on safe foundational firearms use • Positive feedback from long-time shooters on the content • Note Rule 3 better defines "load" • Note Rule 6 "store and transport firearms... safely" • Specific clarification of "skyline" • E-learning and videos available for further learning • Aiming to release by the end of November • Question on immediate supervision + additional material? Guidance will be released in the coming months • Will logo be rebranded? We will try but may not happen before launch of new Unit • Request to change picture of woman as it is under the heading "avoid using drugs and alcohol when using firearms. Agreed. • How do you translate 'cartridge chambered' – see list of common firearm part • This feedback highlights the advantage of getting user input. <p>Will there be hard copies available?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for free online, no printed copies but can download and print • No te reo version for now • Member stated that the Arms Code books were very helpful as reference guides and the new version should be commonly available for purchase. • Suggested that they could be handed out by retailers when a firearm is purchased. <p>Action point - Police could consider looking at providers to sell to retailers directly and on demand.</p>
8	<p>Regulations' update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clubs & Ranges - Registry - Fees <p>Clubs and Ranges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet agreed on modified proposals for clubs and ranges, Police now have the authority to draft the regulations • Timeline on track for regulations made in December and coming into force 28 days later. • We are working at pace, making progress and expect them to be available for all to see before the end of the year

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are working on guidance material to support the introduction of the new obligations <p>Registry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still out for consultation. Consultation closes on 12 October • So far only about 180 submissions and external firm is analysing them for us • Comments in many of the submissions are generalised and unrelated to the proposed content of the regulations such as concern of security of information held on the registry. Others commented on the compliance burden on firearms licence holders • Why are restricted airguns proposed to be entered in the registry particularly? Isn't it pointless if you have to record the sale but you don't know who actually has a restricted airgun from that point onwards if sold to an unlicensed person over the age of 17 years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is needed in the proposed regulations to enforce the Act requirements that restricted airguns can only be sold to 16 and 17 year olds who hold a firearms licence. ○ Police will consider the submission that those licence holders who are aged over 17 years should not need to provide to the registry information on the restricted airguns they possess. • Police noted the statutory review of the Arms Act 1983 will provide an opportunity to look at further gaps and weaknesses in the legislation. There hasn't been a first principles review of the Act and the statutory review provides an opportunity for this to occur. • Member gave feedback that the consultation document was much easier to read when compared to the Clubs and Ranges consultation document and that could be why there are fewer submissions • Confirmation of work timeline – on track for developing final proposals in November. <p>Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police has an obligation to report back on likely revenue to offset the public funding by the end of November • The Minister is prioritising the processing of applications – looking for legislative mechanisms to deal with the pipeline • Question about where and how firearms are used in the RIS? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most are used on farms. If we implement a cost, it makes firearms harder to obtain and impacts rural sector. Others are used in pest control / hunting etc. Police needs to be mindful of the perceived limitations for specific groups. • This is a consultation document at this stage. The approach is to advise the cost and what the fees would be if set at various percentages of the actual cost. • If cost set too high for willing compliance, Police will end up facing the consequence of increase in unregistered or unlawfully held firearms. But this is for the Government to decide after considering submissions and advice just as it did in 1999 when it took the decision to set the fee at 50% of the cost to the Government to issue a licence.
9	<p>General Business</p> <p>Disabled shooter representative Youth shooter representative Possibility of getting a disabled representative for FCAF. Work being done to identify the right candidate.</p>

<p>Firearms User Group has youth representative. Discussion on whether there should be a youth representative. General consensus that it would be a good idea and welcome youth views. Noted youth age is typically up to 25.</p> <p>Action point: Police to request nominations for youth representation x 2</p> <p>Action point: FCAF members to work with their organisations and send in nominations</p> <p>Clubs and ranges team structure</p> <p>Senior Sergeant/manager role for C&R team. 2 national advisors for ranges. 2 regional advisors for ranges. 2 admin support staff. Positive recruitment period.</p> <p>Secure storage and display rules</p> <p>Need to provide a guidance document for dealers and ammunition sellers.</p> <p>Suspension pending consideration of revocation</p> <p>A member reported that a pistol shooter shot themselves. It is understood his licence has been suspended. Concerns raised about whether suspension will occur every time someone accidentally shoots themselves that it will be an automatic suspension. Note general practice is to suspend if the incident results in Police having reason to believe that the person is no longer fit and proper to possess a firearm. Each case is considered on a case-by-case basis. Revocation of the licence may or may not result and can only be determined once the investigation is complete.</p> <p>Event planned for 30 November for Branded Business Unit launch</p> <p>FCAF members will be invited.</p> <p>Meeting dates for 2023</p> <p>Action point: Police to set dates in advance and seek feedback. Please provide feedback if school holidays does/doesn't explicitly work for some.</p>
--

FIREARMS COMMUNITY ADVISORY FORUM – ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

No ACTION POINTS FROM 21 JULY MEETING	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
NIL	N/A	N/A