



Summary of the Firearms Community Advisory Forum Meeting: Thursday 9 July 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and the Chair reminded everyone that Chatham house rules apply to encourage open dialogue.

THE POLICING COST RECOVERY AMENDMENT BILL: The Bill has no implications for fees paid by the Firearms community under the Arms Act and therefore was not considered as relevant to the Forum. It was disappointing to see some misinformation around this.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: MFAT provided an update on the Arms Trade Treaty and the proposed Brokering Control Legislation.

BROKERING CONTROLS: The proposed legislation will help prevent New Zealand individuals or entities (wherever they are based) from engaging in arms brokering (foreign country to foreign country) where there is a risk of the movement of arms and/or military equipment to illegitimate users or undesirable destinations, including those under UN embargos or conflict zones. MFAT noted that the Forum's feedback from the previous meeting was particularly helpful and had been incorporated. Further discussion will be invited once the Bill has been drafted.

THE ARMS TRADE TREATY UPDATE: Currently there are 69 State Parties (of which NZ is one) and 139 signatories.

The first Conference of State Parties (CSP1) to the ATT will be held in Mexico 24-27 August 2015. A Preparatory meeting was held on 6-8 July in Geneva. Key issues for CSP1 will include establishing rules on procedural matters and the location of the permanent Secretariat duties.

Following Points discussed:

- There are more stringent paperwork requirements to get goods out of the US and other countries now. The exporting party is often declining to ship the goods until the importer provides proof they have obtained the import permit required by New Zealand.
- An opinion was put forward that all firearms parts should require permits. The discussion acknowledged that this would require substantial work to process permits and increase costs for those having to permit goods; however, a contrary opinion was also provided that due to the amount of time currently spent by Police and Customs in this area querying whether or not the parts required permits, time may in fact be saved.

Firearms Legislative Update:

Work has not progressed significantly although it is still planned to have some changes to the Arms Act introduced in 2015. The following areas are being considered:

- Firearms Prohibition Orders
- Increased penalties
- Permits to procure
- Manufacture of MSSA's in NZ
- Purchase of firearms online; and
- Permits for parts.

No proposals on these matters have been sent to either the Police Executive or the Minister of Police.

Firearms Safety Review (announced by Peter Dunne): Still to be finalised with Police expecting to be part of this review.

Communications plan: After two small changes were made the Forum members agreed with the draft Coms plan.

Forum Membership Substitution: Due to recent changes in Forum member availability the current system of providing for alternates and the process for permanent replacement was discussed. Everyone agreed with the current system for alternates and replacements.

OPERATIONS UPDATE: An internal review of the Police Firearms Service is being undertaken and is expected to look at:

- Opportunities for Police to better improve the administration of the Arms Act, including
- Opportunities to improve Online licensing and permit processes
- The potential to use Kiwibank/Postal processes
- The potential to use Digital photos for Firearms licensing.