



# Delivery and Performance Summary

July 2023 — June 2024

Produced by Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority  
A business unit of New Zealand Police

Image courtesy of Matt Winter Photography  
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# Executive Statement



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Executive Director  
Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority

Firearms are an essential part of our way of life in New Zealand with over 230,000 people holding a firearms licence.

Our vision at Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is that the possession and use of firearms in New Zealand is the safest in the world.

## Keeping New Zealanders safe

We are responsible for overseeing the legitimate possession and use of firearms in New Zealand. This means ensuring that regulated parties understand and comply with the legislation to keep themselves and others safe. We proactively engage with regulated parties and stakeholders with the goal of educating and encouraging the safe possession and use of firearms. Firearms safety is a shared responsibility. Working together, we can minimise the likelihood of firearms-related harm occurring in our communities, and achieve our collective vision.

## Understanding our communities

As the regulator, we balance the needs of licence holders with the safety of the wider public.

For this reason, our focus this year and ongoing is on building connections with the firearms community by attending a range of events and meetings across Aotearoa New Zealand and working alongside stakeholders and partners. We do this to understand how firearm licence holders use their firearms and any barriers they perceive exist to achieving compliance. When we engage, our commitment is to listen to their views. We'll balance this with engaging and listening to the views from the non-firearms community and working with agencies, partners, and stakeholders and other jurisdictions to understand trends, barriers, opportunities and risks.

Safety is a shared responsibility, and the more we are able to target our resources to where there is a higher risk of harm, the more effective we'll be in realising the collective benefits of safety and wellbeing for all communities.

## Assessing our performance

As we continue our journey to becoming a more modern regulator, we are sharing this report on our performance and activities, so you can understand more of what we do and how we are progressing.

We are pleased to report that:

- » There has been an increase of licence holders who have trust and confidence in our management of firearms licensing and being effective in controlling the safe use and possession of firearms.
- » We exceeded our performance targets for the number of fully completed licence applications processed within 90 days.
- » We have significantly reduced the median number of days for licence processing for both first-time and existing licence holders.
- » We have significantly decreased the number of days it takes to follow-up with a firearms licence holder whose licence has expired to ensure that either their licence is renewed or the appropriate disposal or removal of firearms has occurred.

We are committed to our vision and we are committed to the important work still to do.

We have worked hard over the last 12 months to improve safety, while enabling individuals to possess and use firearms.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Brazier'.

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Firearms are an important part of our history and culture, and play a significant role in our way of life. Approximately one in every 20 New Zealanders holds a firearms licence and we use firearms for feeding our families, pest control or for sports and recreational activities.

# Introduction

Our worst terrorist incident, the 15 March 2019 attack on the Christchurch masjidain, led to the establishment of Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority. We were established to modernise and lead a refreshed firearms regulatory framework, address the weaknesses identified during the Royal Commission of Inquiry, and deliver an effective and efficient risk-based firearms licensing system.

Our status as an independent regulator situated within New Zealand Police (Police) provides us with a unique ability to share information and insights with our partners, that directly contributes to the effectiveness of the firearms regulatory regime.



## What have we been doing?

In the initial stage of our establishment, from November 2022 to June 2023, we focused on:

- » Setting the foundations for being an intelligence-led, risk-based regulator.
- » Building and implementing the Firearms Registry.
- » Introducing a stronger and more robust compliance model.
- » Strengthening our partnership and engagement function.
- » Removing the backlog associated with licensing applications.

In keeping with our approach of being a modern regulator, this report provides you with information on our activities and performance for the year, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, and is divided into four sections:

1

Section One describes the firearms community, and explains how many people have a firearms licence, why they have firearms, and where they reside across Aotearoa New Zealand.

2

Section Two describes the activities we undertake to ensure only individuals assessed to be fit and proper have legitimate access to firearms.

3

Section Three describes how we proactively engage, educate, and encourage regulated parties, stakeholders and partners to understand their firearms obligations and ensure safe possession and use.

4

Section Four outlines how we work with other agencies to reduce the scope for people to conduct unlawful behaviour.

Given the dynamic nature of the environment, our data and information is regularly updated. The figures and statistics provided in this report are current at the time of publication. Future reports will include trends and progress in relation to delivering our safety outcomes.

## Our role and purpose

The Arms Act 1983 (Arms Act) provides the framework that seeks to protect the public from the harm that may be caused by the misuse of firearms. The Arms Legislation Act 2020 amended the Arms Act to establish a new firearms regulatory framework with greater oversight and stronger tools.

There are three organisations that play key roles in realising the intent of the Arms Act. The Ministry of Justice administers the Arms Act, Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is responsible for overseeing the legitimate possession and use of firearms, and New Zealand Police enforces compliance with the law.

The functions of administrator, regulator and law enforcement weave together to deliver a strong suite of activities to minimise the risk of firearms getting into the hands of criminals, and to deliver the intent of the Arms Act.

Our core role is to effectively regulate the legitimate possession and use of firearms to keep all communities safe by:

- » **Assessing the suitability** ('fit and proper' status) of individuals to hold a firearms licence.
- » **Engaging and educating** regulated parties to achieve and maintain compliance with the Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992.
- » **Working with NZ Police** and other partners to enforce compliance with the law when this is required.

## Guiding our work are three principles:



### Public safety is our priority

We want the possession and use of firearms in Aotearoa New Zealand to be the safest in the world. This means we must achieve a balance between keeping our communities safe from firearms-related harm, while still enabling the safe and legitimate use of firearms in our communities.



### The safe possession and use of firearms is a shared responsibility

The possession and use of arms in Aotearoa New Zealand is a privilege that comes with a responsibility to act in the interests of personal and public safety. We will actively engage with stakeholders and partners in our pursuit of a safe and effective regulatory system.



### When we engage with regulated parties, we are consistent and fair

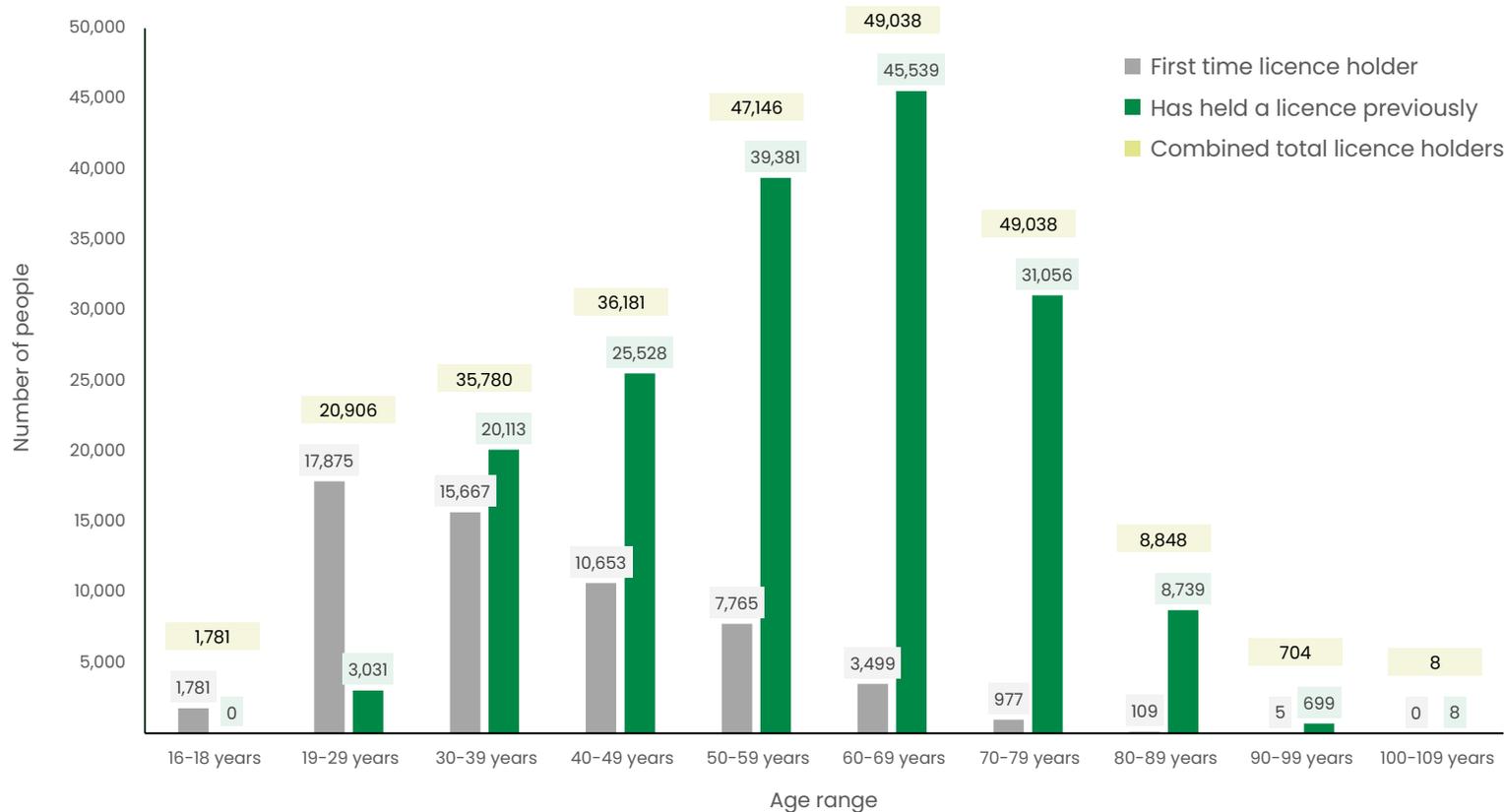
If we are required to intervene to ensure a regulated party meets their obligations, we will do it in a way that is respectful, proportionate, and easily understood.



» 1 Licence holder demographics

# How many people hold a firearms licence?

As at 30 June 2024, there were 232,425 active individual licence holders, of which 429 also held a dealer's licence. This is a slight decline in numbers from last year.



## Why are licence holders not renewing their licence?

In October 2023, we contacted 83 licence holders whose licence had expired, to better understand the reasons behind their decision not to renew.

Of those we contacted, 31 respondents advised they were out of the country, 17 said they were no longer shooting, 9 were in the process of having their licence renewed, and 16 indicated that their decision was for other factors such as age or health.

# Why do people own a firearm?

When someone applies for their firearms licence for the first time, we ask why they wish to hold a firearms licence. We do this to help us understand the types of activities they will be involved in and the associated risks.

This enables us to tailor our safety messages and compliance activities more effectively to help keep people safe. For most people, the motivation for applying for a licence is to participate in hunting. The next most common reasons are to take part in shooting events and to control pests.



## Hunting

Primarily duck, deer stalking and wild game



## Shooting events

Recreational, range, target, sports and competition shooting

## Pest control

Controlling rabbits, possums and other pests on farms and personal land



## Food gathering

Providing food for personal use and supplying friends and family



## Employment purposes

Those that require a licence for zoo and farm work

## Stock management

To euthanise animals on private land and farms



## Club participation

Desire to join a pistol shooting and other clubs

## Heirloom/collector

The desire to retain a firearm within a family



## Family

Teaching and supervising family members safe handling and use

## Dealer

Those applying for a dealer or dealer employee licence



## Manufacturing parts and firearms

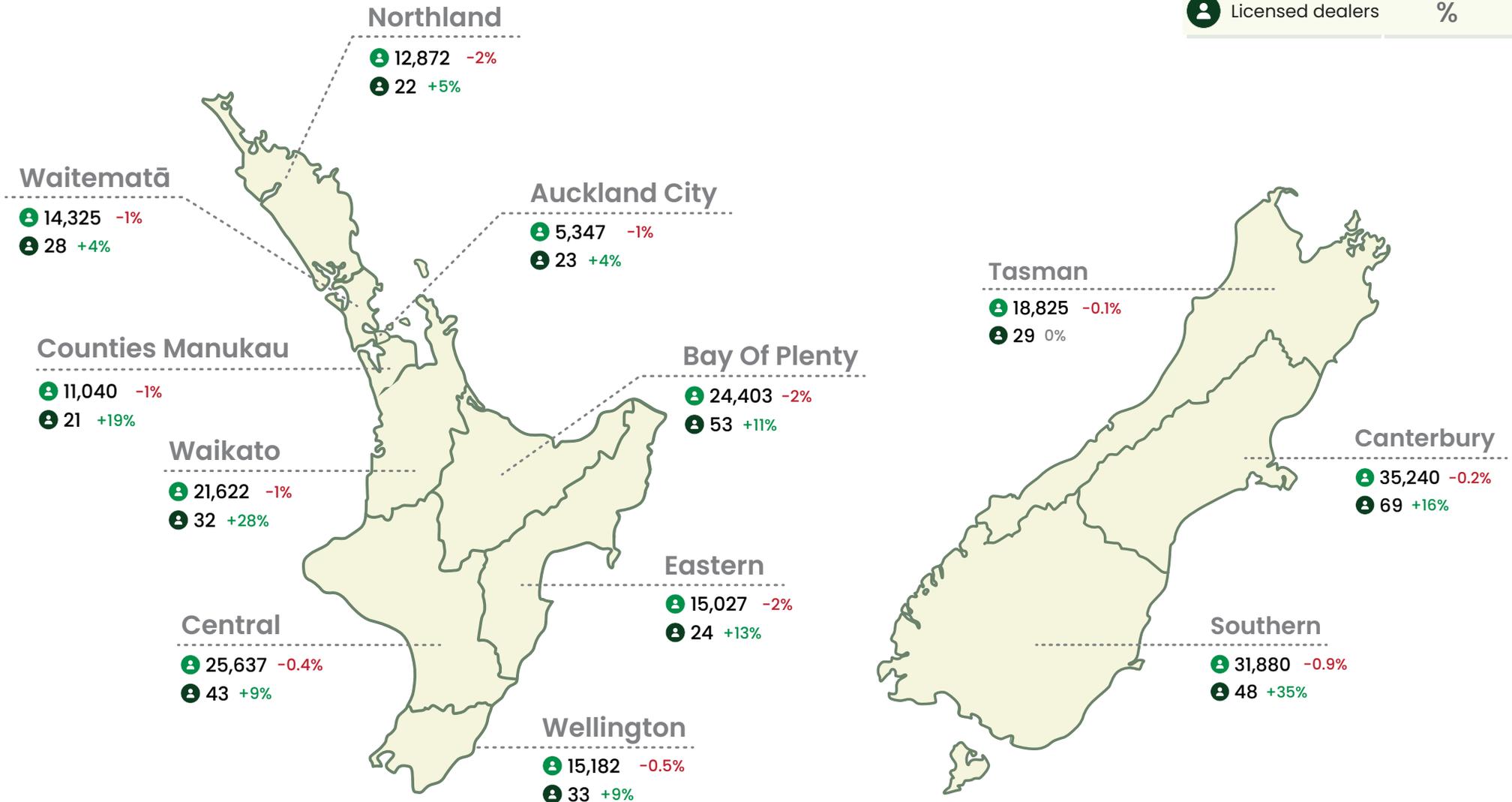
Repairing and building firearms for personal use



# Where do firearms licence holders live?

The highest number of licence holders are in the Canterbury region with over 35,000. When combined with Southland, these districts jointly make up just under 30 percent of all licence holders in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Financial Year 2023/24	Change from FY 2022/23
Individual licence holders	%
Licensed dealers	%





» 2 Ensuring only 'fit and proper' individuals hold a firearm licence

# Ensuring only 'fit and proper' individuals hold a firearms licence



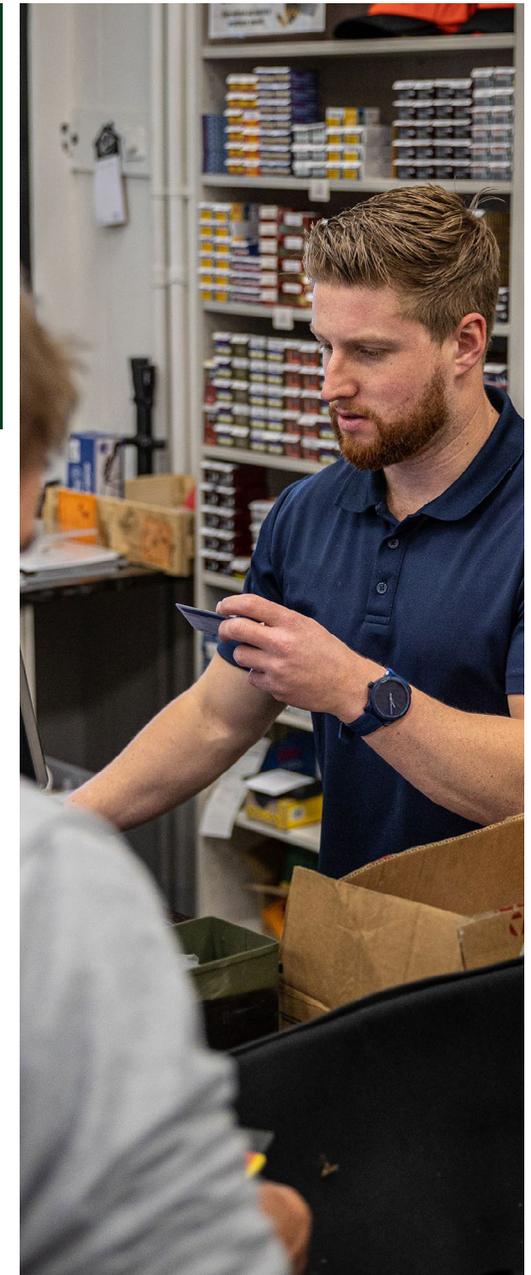
## What does 'fit and proper' mean?

In general terms, a fit and proper person is someone of good character who abides by the laws of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The fit and proper requirements under the Arms Act can be found here: [Arms Act 1983 No 44 \(as at 24 June 2023\), Public Act 24A](#) Fit and proper person to possess firearm or airgun – New Zealand Legislation

Public safety is our priority. This means we must achieve a balance between keeping our communities safe from firearms-related harm, while enabling the safe and legitimate use of firearms in our communities. This means robust decision-making about who is suitable to legitimately possess and use a firearm is paramount.

The Arms Act outlines the circumstances where it may be deemed that a person is not fit and proper to be in possession of a firearm or airgun. For example, if that person has been charged with, or convicted of an offence in Aotearoa New Zealand or overseas, that is punishable by a term of imprisonment. In addition, the Arms Act explains that to determine if an applicant is fit and proper, they must have sound knowledge of the safe possession and use of firearms and understand their legal obligations as a firearms licence holder.



# What are the types of licence an individual can hold?

Obtaining a firearms licence enables the holder to access non-prohibited firearms (often referred to as A category, such as rifles and shotguns). If a licence holder wishes to possess pistols for target shooting, and/or possess restricted or prohibited arms items for collection purposes, they need to obtain the appropriate endorsement.

**Obtaining a Firearms Licence means a person can apply for either a Dealers Licence or Endorsement**

## **Dealers Licence**

Is issued for a specific place of business or allows an individual to:

- » Sell, hire, lend or supply arms items
- » Repair or modify arms items
- » Manufacture arms items
- » Display arms items in a bona fide museum
- » Possess arms items for auction

## **Endorsements**

Allow a firearms or dealers licence holder to lawfully possess:

- » Pistols and/or restricted weapons, including pistol carbine conversion kits
- » Prohibited firearms and/or magazines

# Firearms safety course

To obtain a firearms licence, an applicant must attend and pass a firearms safety course. In addition, any individual where their licence was expired, refused, or surrendered 12 months or more ago are also required to attend and pass a firearms safety course. The firearms safety course has two components, a theory test and a practical training session, there is no live fire component. A core part of the course is ensuring that applicants understand the 7 rules of firearms safety.

**The 7 rules of firearm safety**

- Rule 1** Treat every firearm as loaded
- Rule 2** Always point firearms in a safe direction
- Rule 3** Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire
- Rule 4** Identify your target beyond all doubt
- Rule 5** Check your firing zone
- Rule 6** Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely
- Rule 7** Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

**Engage safety**

STORAGE | HANDLING  
TRANSPORT | SHOOTING

**Te Tari Pūreke**  
Firearms Safety Authority

To support understanding of firearms safety, we created our 7 Safety Rules videos, these demonstrate the safety rules using relatable scenarios. You can view the videos at [youtube.com/@FirearmsSafetyAuthorityNZ](https://www.youtube.com/@FirearmsSafetyAuthorityNZ)

We have also translated the Firearms Safety code into te reo Māori. This is an important step, as it allows Māori licence holders and prospective licence applicants to access essential information in their native language, helping to reduce barriers to understanding and adhering to safety protocols<sup>1</sup>.

As the firearms safety course is a prerequisite to obtaining a licence, we recognise that training needs to be accessible to everyone. We have a contract with the Mountain Safety Council to deliver 533 courses to approximately 6700 individuals<sup>2</sup>. The attendees' positive engagement with the training was reflected in a 96 percent pass rate for the theory test and a 99 percent pass rate for the practical session. Applicants who do not pass can attend another firearms safety course at no additional cost.

In addition to the courses provided by the Mountain Safety Council, we also work with Iwi to deliver the Whakatūpatō course, which provides firearms training and skills for those in rural or isolated communities who wish to apply for their firearms licence. The course is facilitated by New Zealand Police Māori Responsiveness Managers, Iwi Liaison Officers, and our local staff. All attendees are pre-vetted for any disqualifying offences to ensure they would be eligible to apply for a firearms licence. During the year, a total of 181 participants attended one of the ten courses provided.

On passing the firearms safety course, the application process moves to the next stage where one of our vetting officers will conduct interviews with the applicant and their referees, before undertaking a check of the applicant's security arrangements. Based on this information, a decision on whether the applicant's licence will be approved is made and if approved, they are then issued with a firearms licence card.

<sup>1</sup> We have also translated some firearms information into simplified Chinese.

<sup>2</sup> Maximum number of individual booking opportunities is 7995, which represents 15 people per course.

# Firearm licensing volumes

Prior to our establishment there had been a backlog of licensing applications, which had eroded the confidence with the firearms community in the efficient administration of the licensing process. We recognised the significance of this issue and its impact on the firearms community and made the removal of that backlog the focus of our first year. Since then, we have implemented a better licensing service for regulated parties, while still maintaining our focus on public safety.

Over the next few years, the demand for licence renewals, is expected to almost double. This is because of changes made to the Arms Act 1992 after the Aramoana mass shooting, when licence holders transitioned from a lifetime licence to a 10-year renewal period. This cyclical effect is called the licensing bell-curve.

The volume of the licensing bell-curve will present a challenge to us, as we seek to balance public safety, while providing timely licensing decisions. The Act, section 25(a), states if an existing licence holder applies for a new licence (commonly called a renewal) prior to the expire date of the current licence, the licence continues in force until the renewal application process is completed. This provision means we are able to focus our limited resources on first-time applications and those renewals of higher complexity without impacting other licence holders. We are investigating opportunities to flatten out future bell-curves, so that we can more effectively resource and plan our service delivery.

There were 22,530 individual licence applications submitted this year, with a majority received through the MyFirearms website (16,163), followed by email (5184), hardcopy (1038), and 145 via the Police portal.

We measure our service performance for licensing on the percentage of applications processed within 90 days from receipt of a fully completed application. Our performance and ability to complete the necessary activities can be influenced by the applicant's ability to provide all the required information, or when they attend a Firearms Safety Course. Our performance for this year exceeded our standard and represented a significant improvement on previous years.

## Percentage of firearms licence applications (including both new applications and renewals) processed within 90 days from the receipt of a fully completed application

FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Standard
45%	39%	88%	At least 80%

The median number of days to process a licence application has reduced for both first-time licence holders and those who have held a licence previously, with the overall median number of days from application to completion reducing to 85 days this year, down from 155 days last year.

## Overall licence processing timeframes – median number of days<sup>3</sup>

	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Reduction in median days to process
First-time licence holder	225 days	51 days	174 days
Held a licence for five or more years	132 days	63 days	69 days

Looking ahead, we anticipate that as we enter the licensing bell-curve and licensing demand increases, the median number of days for licence processing will increase.

<sup>3</sup> The significant reduction in the median processing times for both licensing and endorsements can be attributed to two factors. When Te Tari Pūreke was established, there was a significant backlog of licence applications, which had meant the median number of days was longer than expected. To remedy this situation, we set-up a dedicated team to remove the backlog. By June 2023, this team had cleared most of these applications, meaning any new applications were able to be processed as they were received. Supplementing this, we introduced new licensing procedures, which has streamlined the administrative process.

# Licence refusals



Firearm licence applications are refused if the applicant is deemed not to be fit and proper<sup>4</sup>. If we intend to refuse, we'll notify the applicant, outlining our reasons why they are being considered for refusal. The applicant has the opportunity to make a submission addressing the reasons we believe they are not suitable to hold a licence.

During the year we refused:

- » 421 individual licence applications, which was a decrease from 735 in the previous year. Most of the licence refusals relate to first time applicants (77 percent).
- » Three dealer licence applications, which was a decrease from five in the previous year.

The timeframes for refusing a firearms licence have decreased significantly for individual licences from a median of 568 days to 177 days, and for dealer licences from 267 to 189 days.

Any applicant who has had their firearms licence refused can apply to have the decision reviewed by a Commissioned Officer (Police) under Section 62 of the Arms Act. We had 43 requests for review, with a median processing time of 15 days. The outcomes of these reviews were:

- » 72 percent (31) of refusals were upheld
- » 26 percent (11) of refusals were overturned
- » One review was withdrawn.

<sup>4</sup> An application can also be refused if it is never fully completed. This is deemed an administrative refusal.

# Endorsement applications

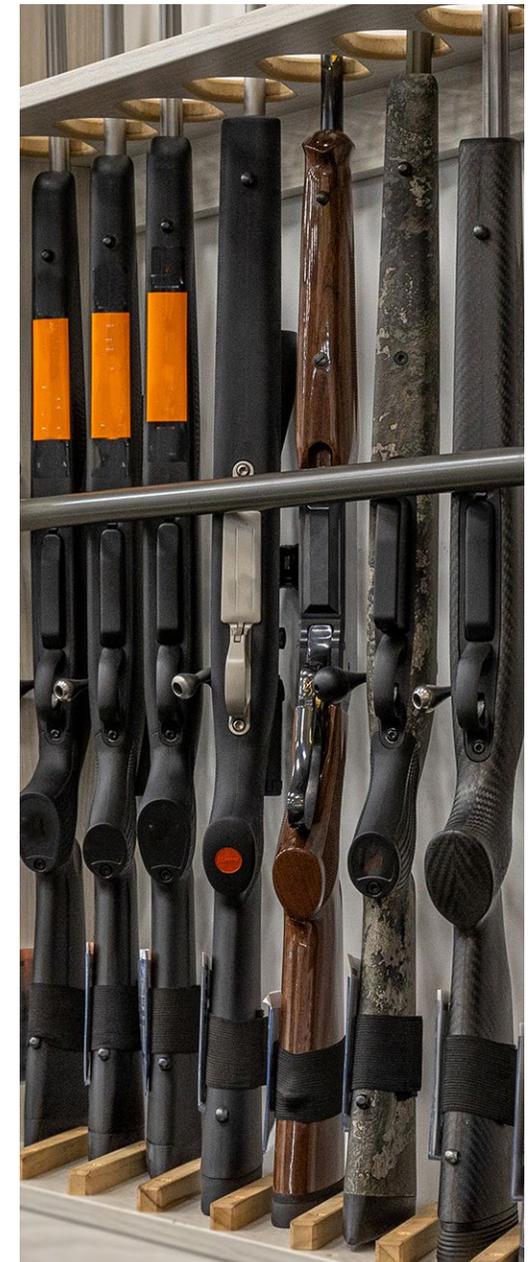
A licence holder with an endorsement is eligible to possess and/or use classes of arms items that are not available to holders of a standard firearms licence. Endorsement holders must apply for a permit to possess or import pistols, pistol carbine conversion kits, restricted weapons, prohibited firearms or magazines. The main categories for endorsements are: bona fide collector; a dealer employee; memento or heirloom; pest control; pistol target; broadcaster; theatrical; living history and theatrical armourer. Each endorsement type carries a specific set of conditions that need to be met.

During the year we have seen a significant improvement in processing times for endorsement applications for both first-time licence holders and those that have held a licence for five years or more.

**Endorsement application processing – median number of days (from application date or ready for processing date to completion)**

	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Reduction in median days to process
First-time licence holder	216 days	91 days	125 days
Held a licence for five or more years	160 days	84 days	76 days

Looking forward, endorsement expiry demand is expected to increase with a peak anticipated in July 2025. For pest control endorsements, which expire every two and half years, we expect this to peak in February 2025, May 2026, and January to February 2027. Understanding this helps us plan ahead to respond to these peaks.



# Other applications

## Visitor licence applications

Anyone entering Aotearoa New Zealand who wants to use a firearm to hunt or enter competitions without the supervision of a firearms licence holder, requires a visitor firearms licence. Visitor application demand is primarily linked to two sources: the hunting season, which is cyclical in nature, and shooting events, some of which are predictable and others of which are arranged on a less formal basis. The median number of days to process a visitor licence application has increased from 50 days in 2022/23 to 77 days in this year.

## Dealer licences

We inspect Dealer licence holders to ensure compliance with the Arms Act and this year we did not achieve our performance standard of 100%. The drop in performance was due to us transitioning to a new process for managing dealer licences, which we believe in the long-term will improve the consistency, accuracy and efficiency for processing applications.

## Percentage of firearm dealers inspected for compliance with the Arms Act

FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Standard
26%	72%	92%	82%	100%

# Permits

## Permit to import an arms item

To import a firearm or part you need a permit. This is an important control point for us, so we can control both the type and volume of firearms coming into Aotearoa New Zealand. An individual wanting to import a 'new' firearm or arms part can apply for a permit to provide a sample to our classification panel. The panel will assess the appropriateness of that item being in New Zealand and what classification it should receive<sup>5</sup>.

## Permit to possess an arms item

A Licence holder with an appropriate endorsement on that licence can apply for a permit to possess specific arms items such as pistols, prohibited firearms and magazines or restricted weapons. This act as an important control point to ensure the appropriate licence and endorsement holders meet the required conditions to possess these items.

While the number of permits issued was lower in 2023/24 than the previous year, so were the number that were issued but were then either expired, cancelled or surrendered.

## Obtaining a pistol for target shooting

The purpose of a pistol target shooting endorsement is to facilitate sport shooting activities.

This means pistols can only be acquired by the licence holder if they fit with the purpose of the endorsement. We assess pistols as they are imported into Aotearoa New Zealand, and only pistols approved by us as appropriate for the known disciplines can be used in target pistol shooting. Pistols held on the pistol target shooting endorsement must relate to a discipline that the person actually shoots in during the year.

There is no definitive restriction to the number of pistols that can be held on a pistol target shooting endorsement, however, shooting activities (or disciplines) that the endorsement holder participates in will affect the number of pistols held.

Permits	Amount issued 2023/24	Difference in volume from 2022/23
Import	2994	-410
Issued and Used	1336	-816
Issued, but Expired, Cancelled or Surrendered	334	-918
Possess	5011	-758
Issued and Used	4699	-646
Issued, but Expired, Cancelled or Surrendered	312	-112

<sup>5</sup> If an individual is seeking to import a common firearm or part, then the panel does not need to consider it.

# Ensuring compliance with legislation

When an individual has been granted a firearms licence, our role is to monitor on an ongoing basis, both their fit and proper status and their compliance with firearms legislation.

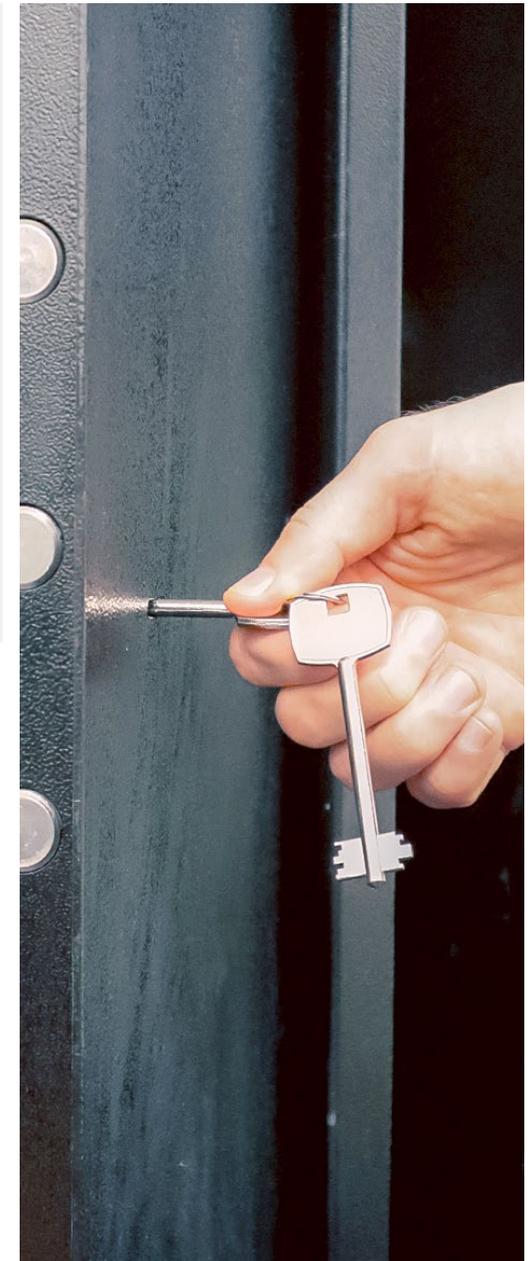
In the context of firearms, compliance means meeting or exceeding the requirements of the regulatory framework that is designed to ensure personal and public safety, security of firearms, and the responsible possession and use of firearms.

To support and assist the firearms community, we produce guidance material, and educational and online resources, to help increase awareness of safety and regulatory obligations. The safe use and possession of firearms is a shared responsibility. Providing this material enables licence holders to play a key role in keeping themselves, their families and our communities safe from firearms harm.

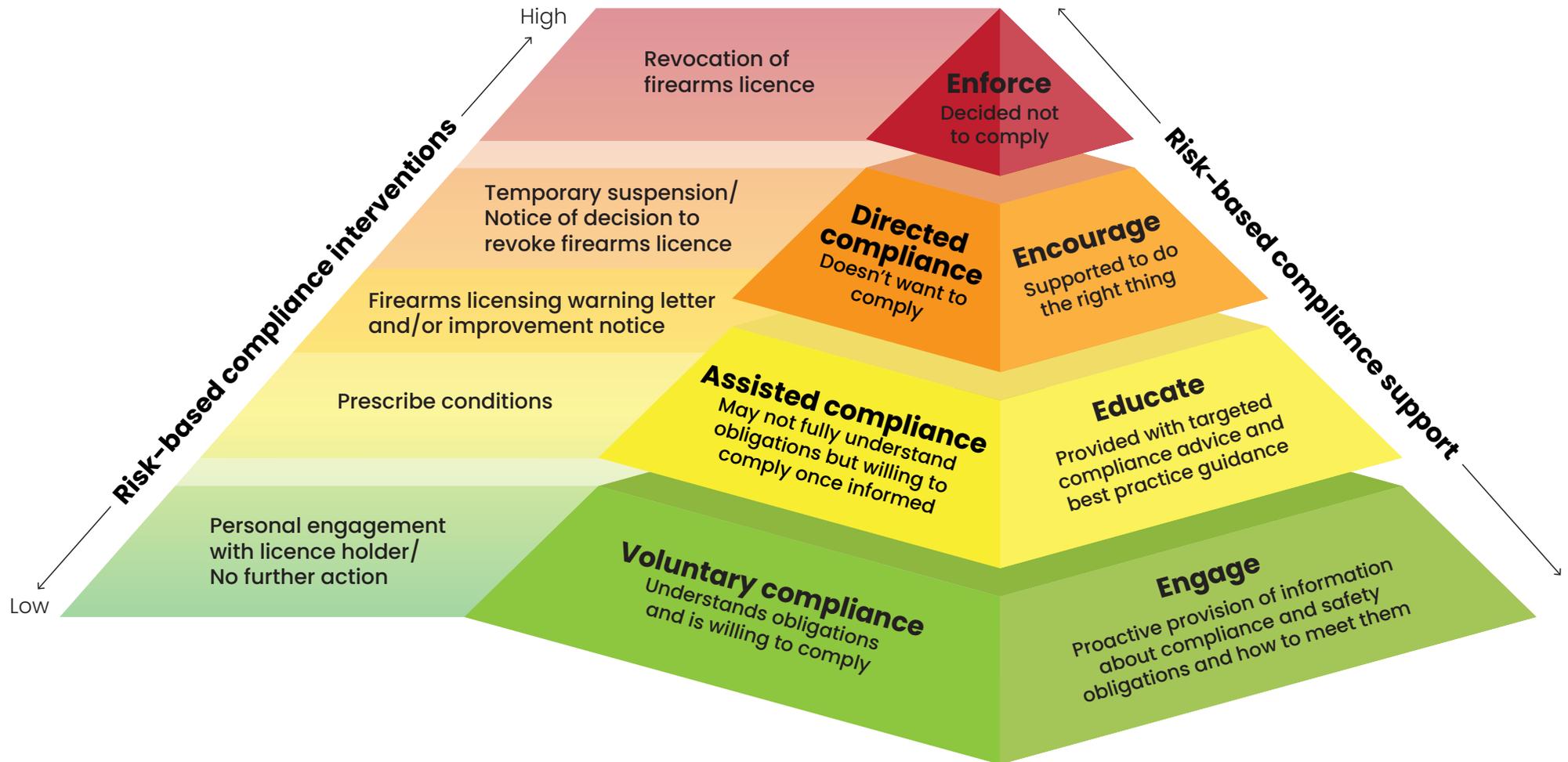
In common with many regulators in Aotearoa New Zealand, we use a voluntary, assisted, directed, and enforced (VADE) model to achieve compliance and to support our regulatory approach of engage, educate, encourage and enforce (see diagram on the next page). Our preference is always for voluntary compliance, where regulated parties understand their firearms-related obligations and are proactive in taking steps to ensure they remain compliant with the law. When necessary, we'll intervene to ensure compliance with the legislation.

The timeliness of conducting compliance activities is important and we have made significant improvements over the last twelve months in relation to the following activities:

- » The median number of days to follow-up with expired firearms licence holders around the appropriate disposal, or removal, of firearms has reduced from 108 days to 33 days.
- » The time taken to assess a licence holder's change of address and to determine whether a security inspection is required has reduced from 295 days to a single day.
- » The median number of days working with families to resolve issues in cases where the firearm licence holder has died has reduced from 33 to 28 days.



# Our compliance approach



# Activating circumstances

The Arms Regulations 1992 requires licence holders to register their firearms when they have been involved in one of the following situations, which are defined as activating circumstances:

- » Applied for a licence or endorsement.
- » Notified us of a change in licence holder information (such as change of name, contact details or residential address).
- » Bought, sold, supplied, or received an arms item.
- » Imported or exported an arms item.
- » Manufactured or destroyed an arms item.
- » Notified Police that an arms item has been lost or stolen.
- » Been subject to compliance or enforcement action under the Arms Act.

On the day the activating circumstance occurs, the licence holder is sent an email to remind them of their obligations and what they need to do.

This reminder is followed-up by further reminders on days 16 and 32.

We do not treat an activating circumstance as overdue until 33 days have elapsed. After 33 days, we'll initiate a series of sequenced steps to support the licence holder to achieve compliance:

- » Between 33 – 44 days, we will contact the licence holder by either phone or letter.
- » Between 45 – 49 days, we will contact the licence holder again.
- » Between 60 – 74 days, if no action has been taken by the licence holder, we will issue an improvement notice via email or letter. This gives the licence holder 16 days to comply.
- » After 75 days, we will escalate our interventions to include consideration of suspension or revocation of the individual's licence.

This year we managed 41,506 activating circumstance events, with 93 percent of these events resolved (38,791). Of the 2,715 unresolved events, nearly half are still within the first 33 days, with less than 400 being for more than 75 days.

## Activating circumstances during FY 2023/24

**41,506**

### Resolved circumstances

**38,791 (93%)**

#### First-time licence holder

**10,633 (27%)**

#### Licence held for five years or more

**28,158 (73%)**

### Circumstances pending resolution

**2,715 (7%)**

#### First-time licence holder

**804 (30%)**

#### Licence held for five years or more

**1,911 (70%)**

# Our regulatory tools

We use our regulatory tools proportionately and in ways that encourage compliance. This means that, at the lowest end of the risk spectrum, where we assess there is a low risk of harm and there is evidence of a reasonable attempt to comply on behalf of the individual, our interventions may extend no further than personal engagement with the licence holder.

Where we assess there is a need to mitigate a particular area of concern, we may request that a licence holder complies with a specific set of conditions relating to their possession and use of firearms.

As we move into scenarios that we perceive to carry more risk, or where evidence shows there may be an emerging pattern of non-compliance, we will consider directing regulated parties to achieve compliance with more focused forms of encouragement, such as warning letters and improvement notices. It's important to note that, even at this stage, we will do all we can to support parties into compliance and avoid further escalation.

At the highest end of the risk spectrum, where we see behaviour that presents a high probability of actual or potential harm, or where the behaviour of a regulated party demonstrates a persistent pattern of non-compliance, we will enforce compliance with the law by suspending, and possibly revoking, a firearms licence.

While we are currently utilising tools such as warning letters, improvement notices and prescribing conditions, we are not able to provide detailed information that would provide a comprehensive understanding of what we are doing and its impact. We are refining our reporting to enable us to provide this information in future reports.

## Regulatory Tools

### Warning Letter

Issued to firearms or dealer's licence in situations where concerning behaviour is considered relevant to whether a person remains a fit and proper person to possess firearms and airguns but (so far) falls short of the threshold to revoke or suspend the licence.

### Improvement Notices

Issued to firearms or dealer's licence, if we reasonably believe that the licence holder is failing, has failed, or is likely to fail to comply with a provision or provisions of the Act, or conditions on a licence, an endorsement, or a permit. The notice will state the applicable provision or provisions (within the Act or regulations made under it), or condition(s) the licence holder is failing, has failed, or is likely to fail to comply with; and is required to remedy or prevent from occurring, and state the date by which the licence holder is required to remedy the failure or prevent the failure from occurring.

### Prescribed Conditions

We may on some occasions, where appropriate, impose prescribed conditions upon a licence, endorsement or permit for a short period of time, if the conditions will sufficiently mitigate a risk identified or address a specific situation appropriately. Prescribed conditions may be used for situations such as addressing access concerns for a person who is not fit and proper living with a firearms licence holder or applicant, or specific endorsement or dealer related conditions. Prescribed conditions are not used to circumvent or override the current provisions or regulations under the Act or Regulations, nor are they used to allow a person who is not fit and proper to retain their firearms licence and access to firearms.

# Suspension of a firearms licence

Having a firearms licence is a privilege, if there is an event that could affect a licence holders fit and proper status, we may take the action to suspend an individual's firearms licence, while we investigate further. For the period of the investigation the licence holder is treated as being unlicensed, this means that the firearms are removed from their possession.

The main reasons we suspend licences are for involvement in criminal offences; regulatory non-compliance; physical or mental illness<sup>6</sup>; alcohol or drug use; family harm or a protection order; and gang affiliation. As shown in the table below, there was a significant increase in the number of suspensions between the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years following the attack on the Christchurch masjidain. Since then, there has been a gradual increase, it is worth noting that in 2023/24 the 1363 suspensions represent less than one percent of firearms licence holders. This reinforces our belief that most licence holders are law-abiding, understand their obligations and meet them.

## Number of firearm licence suspensions per financial year

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Individual licences	21	818	1129	1288	1363
Dealer licences	0	2	4	8	5



<sup>6</sup> Mental health and firearms is covered in more detail in the supporting regulated parties to succeed section.

# Revocations

At the conclusion of the investigation we may decide to revoke, which is the removal of an individual's firearms licence.

A licence holder subject to a revocation cannot reapply for a licence for five years. Revocations reflect a similar increase in suspensions following the attack on the Christchurch masjidain, but have levelled out to around 900 per annum for the last three years.

## Number of firearms licences revocations per financial year

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Individual licences	601	1023	901	895	908
Dealer licences	3	2	2	6	3

## Revocation appeal process

As with the refusal of a licence, an individual who has had their licence revoked has the right to have the decision reviewed under Section 62 of the Arms Act. The review is conducted by a Commissioned Officer (Police), who was not involved in the original decision-making process. Last year 236 licence holders sought a review, with the following outcomes:

- » In 173 cases (73 percent) the decision to revoke was upheld.
- » In 30 cases (13 percent) the decision to revoke was changed, the licence was not revoked and no further action was taken.
- » In 20 cases (8 percent) the decision to revoke was changed but the licence holder was either issued a warning letter or had conditions applied to their licence.
- » In the remaining 13 cases, there was either no right to review, the request for the review was withdrawn, or the licence was surrendered.

If the individual is not satisfied by the outcome of the review, they have the option to appeal the decision in the District Court. During the last year, 35 appeal cases were heard at the District Court, with the following outcomes:

- » In 13 cases (37 percent) the decision to revoke was upheld.
- » In six cases (17 percent) the decision to revoke was overturned.
- » In eight cases (23 percent) the licence holder withdrew their appeal.
- » In the remaining eight cases, the case was either withdrawn and an alternative resolution reached, or the case was cancelled.

# Quality assurance of our decision-making

Whilst the figures for appeal cases at the District Court indicate that our decision-making is robust and fit-for-purpose, as a regulator we are equally focussed on ensuring that our processes are consistent and fair. When making an application decision, our staff follow a structured professional judgement guide that outlines seven key areas they must consider. If a staff member has concerns, or identified risks or issues during the process, they have the option to escalate the case to an internal district review panel. These panels are made up of members of staff with a range of knowledge and experience. The panel will review the full application and make the final decision.

As an added assurance measure, 10 percent of all application decisions are peer reviewed by another district<sup>7</sup> for quality assurance, which ensures our decision-making is consistent at a national level. 90 percent of peer reviewed applications achieved a pass outcome, which is our performance standard. For those that did not meet the required standard, the main reason (nearly 29 percent) was for administrative error relating to elements such as missing tick boxes or not attaching files. However, this does not necessarily mean that the decision to issue a licence was incorrect.

Information from District Court decisions and our quality assurance process is used to improve our training and procedures to improve our decision-making, thereby enhancing safety outcomes.

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<sup>7</sup> The 12 districts are shown on the map in Section 1: Licence holder demographics.

# Expiry and Surrender

## Expiry of a firearms licence

Over the last year there has been a significant improvement in the time required to follow-up with licence holders when their licence has expired to either ensure renewal of the licence or the appropriate disposal, or removal of the firearms. This reflects the investment made 18-months ago in creating a centralised team, which as part of their role has a focus on identifying licences that are due to expire. To reduce the number of pending expired licence holders, we proactively contact these individuals to provide advice on their options pre-expiry, enabling them to take action to meet their obligations.

## Median number of days to follow-up with expired firearm licence holders to ensure renewal of the firearms licence, or appropriate disposal or removal of the firearms

FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Standard
94 days	84 days	108 days	33 days	60 days

## Surrendering of licences

Licence holders may elect to surrender their licence or endorsement for a variety of reasons. During the year:

- » 1276 individual licences were surrendered, an increase of 459.
- » Ten dealer licences were surrendered, a decrease of five.
- » 600 endorsements were surrendered by 518 individuals. The type of endorsements and number of surrendered are provided in the table below.

## Surrendered endorsements during 2023/24 financial year

Endorsement type		Number surrendered
B endorsement	Target pistol	341 (57%)
C endorsement	Collector/memento	152 (25%)
P endorsement	Pest control & prohibited	53 (9%)
F endorsement	Dealer employee	35 (6%)
D endorsement	Dealer	14 (2%)
M endorsement	Ammunition	5 (1%)



» 3 Supporting regulated parties  
to succeed

# Supporting regulated parties to succeed

To support our preference for voluntary compliance, we invest resources to engage with regulated parties, educating and encouraging them to meet their regulatory obligations.

We believe the maintenance of a safe firearms system is a shared responsibility, we view building strong and robust relationships with stakeholders and partners as a critical pathway to achieving our safety outcomes. We regularly partner with organisations to share safety messaging, working alongside them where we can, and using our channels and networks to promote the good work of our stakeholders.

## Remember safety first if you're hunting in the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition this year

- » Wherever you are hunting, make sure you have permission
- » Chamber a cartridge only when you're ready to fire
- » Supervise unlicensed firearms users
- » Identify your target beyond all doubt



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Hunting With The NZ Firearms Safety Authority: Kendra's First Hunt



Subscribe

58



Share

Save



1,105 views 12 Jun 2024

Join us on an unforgettable three-day adventure as we hunt red deer along the picturesque shores of Lake Hawea's Dingleburn Station! This episode of MentalHunts is extra special as it's Kendra's first hunt and her first deer.

Accompanied by the Firearms Safety Authority, we explore the mental health benefits of immersing ourselves in nature and the rewarding experience of hunting and gathering our own meat.

Watch as Kendra learns the ropes, and triumphantly takes down her first red deer (Stag).

Don't miss this exciting episode filled with breathtaking scenery, valuable safety tips, and a celebration of personal milestones. Whether you're a seasoned hunter or new to the sport, this journey offers something for everyone. Like, comment, and subscribe to stay tuned for more adventures with MentalHunts!

"Thank you so much for supporting the Game Animal Council by distributing Better Hunting pamphlets to instructors of the Firearm Safety Course. Awareness of Better Hunting to that audience is a massive help for our hunter education efforts."

– Game Animal Council staff

# Working with stakeholders and partners

A key part of our work is being out in the community, establishing connections with both the firearms and non-firearms communities. We use these opportunities to educate and promote firearm safety messages and reinforce licence holder obligations. Key community engagements this year included:

- » The Rauhine Antique and Historical Auction is a major event, where over 600 firearm items needed to be uploaded into the dealers portal in real-time. Our staff were on hand to support dealers with this work, which went exceedingly well and provided a blueprint for future auctions.
- » Partnering with the Recreational Firearms Users Working Group to promote hunter safety and education initiatives, such as a high-profile hunter safety campaign over the Roar and the gamebird season, and working with the Game Animal Council on their Better Hunting Programme.
- » Over the opening weekend of the game bird hunting season, we worked alongside Fish & Game rangers to assist with education activities.
- » Working with organisations such as Returned and Services Association (RSA) and museums to help them understand their legislative obligations and continue to possess and display firearms.
- » Consulting with individuals and groups to ensure materials such as the 'Disposal and Surrender Guide' and 'Visitors and Hunting Guides' are fit for purpose.

- » Attended events such as the WellSouth public health meeting, NZ Deerstalkers Association Annual conference, the National Rifle Association Annual General Meeting and the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ) National Conference.
- » Participating on both the Steering Group and Working Group of the Department of Conservation National Goat Hunting Competition to help ensure a focus on safe and lawful participation in this national event.
- » Holding regular Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF) and Arms Engagement Group (AEG) meetings to ensure there is effective, two-way communication with the representatives of these key firearms interest groups.

We are currently establishing a Māori Firearms Forum. This forum aims to represent Māori views on firearms possession, safe use, licensing, and other related topics. It will include representation from Iwi, Hapū, and professionals within the Māori firearms community, ensuring a broad spectrum of perspectives are considered. The forum will guide us through processes to develop a Te Ao Māori framework, which will focus on how best to work with Māori, for Māori, and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi. By incorporating Māori voices into policy-making and strategy development, this forum promotes a more inclusive and culturally responsive approach to firearms management in Aotearoa New Zealand.

“Our staff worked alongside Firearms Safety Authority staff. All were a pleasure to work with. They were professional, courteous, and well-received by hunters and landowners. We were grateful for the FSA’s support in spreading the message about safe game bird hunting in the lead-up to Opening Weekend.”

– Corina Jordan,  
Chief Executive  
Fish & Game New Zealand

# Clubs and ranges

## Safety at clubs and ranges

After new regulatory requirements for shooting clubs and ranges came into effect in June 2022, we established our Clubs and Ranges Team, which is responsible for supporting and ensuring the compliance of the shooting clubs and ranges community. This group has two functions: to inspect, approve, and certify clubs and ranges; and to engage, educate, and support these communities to operate to the highest safety standards required.

## Shooting clubs

There are 391 approved shooting clubs in Aotearoa New Zealand, consisting of 93 pistol clubs and 298 non-pistol clubs. We have two compliance measures in this area that form part of our annual reporting to government, the first is to investigate target pistol endorsement holders who fail to attend the minimum of 12 club shoots per year, and the second is to inspect pistol ranges for compliance with the Arms Act.

## Percentage of pistol endorsement holders investigated for fewer than 12 days of club activities annually

FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Standard
94%	93%	93%	100%	100%

## Percentage of pistol ranges inspected for compliance with the Arms Act

FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Standard
60%	87%	99%	98%	100%

## Shooting ranges

There are 1181 active shooting ranges within Aotearoa New Zealand, of which 695 have been certified, with the remaining currently in the certification process. During the year we issued 66 improvement notices to shooting ranges, with key issues identified relating to:

- » Ballistic safety, generally resulting from poor maintenance of the range.
- » Range standing orders, which are the foundation safety document for operating the range.

In addition, four range certifications were cancelled due to an absence of council consent.

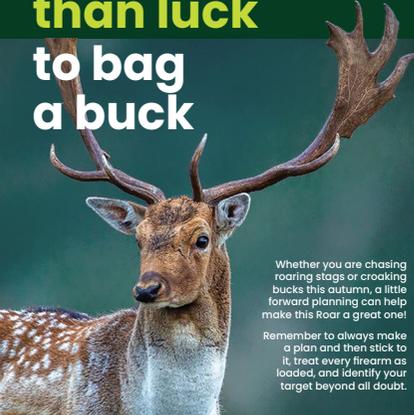
Looking forward, the Government's Firearms Reform programme has signalled a desire to change the legislative requirements for clubs and ranges. When the outcome of the proposed changes are known, we'll review and adjust how we assess and ensure compliance with any new legislation.

# Firearm safety campaigns

This year we delivered integrated communications and marketing campaigns promoting firearms safety, especially in the lead-up to the Roar (late March) and game bird (late April) hunting seasons. We do this in collaboration with key stakeholders such as Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, NZ Deerstalkers, Mountain Safety Council, and Federated Farmers. Working with these stakeholders ensures the best reach of the safety messages.

This year our marketing campaigns were about reaching hunters with key firearms safety messaging over higher-use periods. The aim is to keep safety front of mind, without safety being seen as a barrier to participants enjoyment of their sport. We think the tagline for these campaigns neatly sums up the approach to safety we want to instil: Plan safe – Act safe – Stay safe.

Following feedback from the Minister's Arms Advisory Group (MAAG) on our social media presence, we initiated a Facebook page to enable regulated parties and stakeholders to receive information from us through an alternative channel. Since 2023, the channel has grown and we now have over 9400 followers.



## It takes more than luck to bag a buck

Whether you are chasing roaring stags or croaking bucks this autumn, a little forward planning can help make this Roar a great one!

Remember to always make a plan and then stick to it, treat every firearm as loaded, and identify your target beyond all doubt.

**PLAN safe** | **ACT safe** | **STAY safe**

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## Think safety this Roar

Nothing is as exciting as heading into the bush on a crisp Autumn morning, listening in anticipation for that first stag roar of the season. You've waited months for the deer rut to roll around again – and now it's arrived!

You are all set up for a few days in the hills and you and your mates are ready for action. While you can't control the weather or if the stags will be roaring, you know keeping yourself and any other hunters in the area safe takes more than just luck. The best hunters follow the seven basic rules of firearms safety and insist that others do the same. This Roar we urge hunters everywhere to have a plan for their hunt, handle firearms carefully, and always identify your target beyond all doubt. Having a safe and enjoyable time away, with everyone coming home safely takes a lot more than just luck.

**When hunting with others make a good plan**

**Handle your firearms carefully**

**Positively identify your target beyond all doubt**

**Quick tips**

- If hunters lose sight of each other in the bush, stop hunting.
- Never fire when your companions are ahead of you.
- Don't shoot at objects on the skyline, you can't see what is on the other side.

**Quick tips**

- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Minimise risk by having a cartridge chambered only when necessary.
- Never attempt to cross a fence with a loaded firearm.

**Quick tips**

- Slow down, take a few breaths, take a closer look at the target.
- Check your whole firing cone, especially to each side and beyond the target.
- Never fire at movement only, moving bushes or trees might be a person.

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## It takes more than luck to get a duck

Duck hunters look forward to the start of duck season every year, so let's make sure it's a great one

Remember to always treat every firearm as loaded and to save the drinks until the shotguns are safely locked away

**PLAN safe** | **ACT safe** | **STAY safe**

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## Think safety this duck hunting season

Nothing is as exciting as settling into the maimai on the first Saturday of May. You've waited months for this day to roll around again – opening weekend of duck season is here!

The maimai is full of friends, family and the dog. While you can't control whether the birds will be plentiful, you know keeping yourself and everyone in your group safe takes more than just luck.

The best hunters follow the seven basic rules of firearms safety and insist that others do the same. This duck season we urge hunters everywhere to have a plan for their maimai, so everyone knows what to do before the first ducks arrive. An organised maimai helps with a successful hunt, a good bag, and a safe, enjoyable weekend has nothing to do with luck.

**The more people around, the greater the risks**

**Treat every firearm in the maimai as loaded**

**Save any drinks for after the hunt**

**Quick tips**

- Never point, or allow others to point, a firearm at any person!
- All hunters agree at the start of the day on the direction they will shoot and keep to this plan.
- Shotguns that are not in use should be in a firearm holder/feet, unchoked and with the muzzle pointing in a safe direction.

**Quick tips**

- Treat your shotgun as if it is always loaded.
- Do not take anyone else's word that a firearm is unloaded – always check.
- Never lean your shotguns when they could slide or be knocked over.

**Quick tips**

- Do not drink alcohol before or while using your firearms.
- Do not hunt with anyone else who is, or has been, drinking.
- Clean before beers – safely lock your firearms away before going for a drink.

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# Mental health



One in five New Zealanders will experience a mental health illness each year, with nearly 50 percent of the population experiencing a mental health need at some point in their lives. Police data shows that firearms are involved in various mental health-related events.

Having a mental health illness or event doesn't mean you can't access or use a firearm. In fact, firearms-related activities are shown to have positive impacts for those who participate in them, such as physical activity, a sense of challenge and achievement, autonomy over a skill of monetary value, and social interactions. These benefits provide individuals with a means to help maintain a balanced mental state and positive community connections.

As the regulator we recognise these health benefits and want to make sure we achieve the right balance between the individuals' wellbeing and public safety.

## Health practitioners

Under Section 92 of the Arms Act, a health practitioner must consider notifying us if they have reason to believe a patient who is a firearms licence holder has a health condition that may impact their safety or the safety of the public, if they continue to have access to firearms.

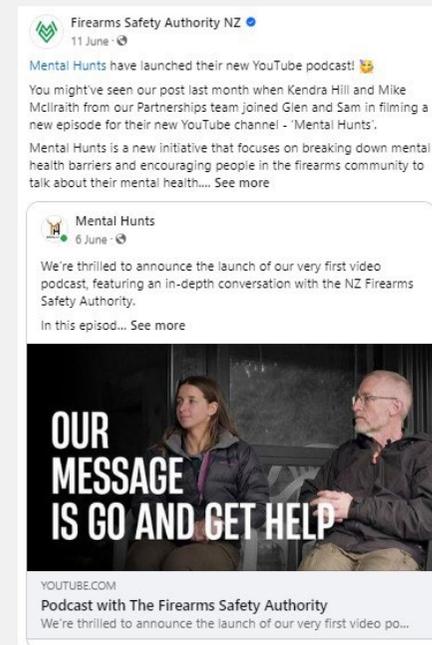
We have been engaging with health practitioners to support their understanding of their critical role in the safe use of firearms. We have been doing this through a variety of channels including articles (NZ Doctor) and podcasts (Goodfellow Unit), as well as attending team meetings and community presentations to enable information sharing. We have also updated the health practitioner webpage and reporting form on our website, as well as engaging with health organisations to ensure that the firearm-related information on their website is up to date.

Over the past three years, health practitioner reports were principally split between those that reflected a concern over mental health of a licence holder 79 (62 percent), and those that concerned the deterioration of a licence holder's cognitive state 49 (38 percent). Significantly, 52 percent of all firearms licence holders against whom a mental health report of concern was made ultimately retained their licence.

## Working with stakeholders to promote mental health

MentalHunts is an organisation with a mission to break down the barriers to mental health support, promote firearms safety, and foster education within the firearms community. To support the work they are doing to bring more information to the community we featured on one of their podcast episodes, which you can watch at [youtu.be/O7zgbIGhXg4](https://youtu.be/O7zgbIGhXg4)

Following the MentalHunts podcast, we published articles in popular outdoor magazines to raise awareness of the episode and the key messages for firearms licence holders and their whānau.



# Safe storage and transportation

Correct storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition is a key element in preventing access by someone who is not authorised to possess or use a firearm.

To enable us to better educate the firearms community about good security and safety practices, we have created visual aids such as security displays, wooden display firearms, and regional event kits. Furthermore, to support our conversations we have analysed instances where firearms have been taken such as burglaries and thefts, which have highlighted the following:

- » That the location of the safe key is a critical element in whether firearms are stolen during a burglary.
- » Firearm theft from vehicles is likely to be opportunistic in nature.



When they aren't being used  
firearms are **safest in the safe**

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## Keep your firearms in safe hands

### Firearms locked away

- » Firearms unloaded
- » Locked in a safe, gun rack or other approved storage
- » Secured away from people who shouldn't have access to them

### Secure ammunition

- » Stored separately to firearms
- » Locked in approved storage

### Keys separate and secure

- » Firearms and ammunition security keys stored separately
- » Keys hidden or secured



Te Tari Pūreke  
Firearms Safety Authority

# Trust and confidence survey

It can be difficult to directly measure the impact of our engagement and educational activities, but it is important that communities feel safe from the harm that firearms can cause. It's also important that our licensed community feels we are delivering a fair and effective service. Our Trust and Confidence survey gives us some insights into how our regulated parties, stakeholders and the public feel.

This year we conducted our second Trust and Confidence survey for firearms licence holders and members of the public. This survey is a repeat of the 2022 survey, which was conducted as result of recommendation 22b of the of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain.

For firearm licence holders, the 2024 survey was targeted to firearms licence holders who had interacted with our Registry Services Team in the two months prior to the survey being sent.

For members of the public, respondents were recruited through the online survey platform SurveyMonkey. Email invitations were sent to Aotearoa New Zealand residents between the ages of 18–99 years asking them to participate.

The results of the survey show an uplift in trust and confidence held by the firearms licence holder community, with positive gains of between 15 percent and 25 percent across the range of key indicators.

The 2024 results show that 68 percent of licence holders have trust and confidence in our management of firearms licensing, up from 42 percent in 2022; and 65 percent of licence holders have confidence in our effective control of the safe use and possession of firearms, up from 45 percent in 2022.

For the wider public, the 2024 results show around 64 percent continue to have confidence in the way we control the safe use and possession of firearms in Aotearoa New Zealand (compared to 65 percent in 2022); and 65 percent in the way we are managing firearms licensing (compared to 67 percent in 2022).

## Operational Measures

Measure	2021/22 result	2023/24 result	Baseline difference
<b>M26 Public confidence in arms safety and control</b>			
Trust and confidence in the way Te Tari Pūreke manages firearms licensing	67%	65%	-2%
Confidence in the way Te Tari Pūreke controls the safe use and possession of firearms	65%	64%	-1%
Confidence in the way New Zealand Police controls the possession of firearms held by unlicensed members	56%	57%	+1%
<b>M27 Police arms staff satisfaction</b>			
Staff believe they have received sufficient training to do their role	64%	75%	+11%
Staff satisfaction in the support received to do their role	62%	78%	+16%
Staff believe they have the tools to do their role	67%	79%	+12%
<b>M28 Firearms licence holders' confidence in arms safety and control</b>			
Trust and confidence in the way Te Tari Pūreke manages firearms licensing	43%	68%	+25%
Confidence in the way Te Tari Pūreke controls the safe use and possession of firearms	45%	65%	+20%
Confidence in the way New Zealand Police controls the possession of firearms held by unlicensed members	30%	47%	+17%



» 3 Working with other agencies

# Working with other agencies at a systems level



This section describes how we work with other government agencies such as NZ Police, Department of Conservation, and New Zealand Customs Service to reduce the scope for the unlawful use and possession of firearms.

## Firearms Safety Oversight Group

The purpose of the Firearms System Oversight Group (FSOG) is to support the strong regulation of firearms through cross-agency oversight and assurance of the strategic settings, performance and across the possession, use, and control of firearms in Aotearoa New Zealand. This group monitors improvements to system performance and the reduction of strategic risk over time.

FSOG membership is comprised of representatives from NZ Police, New Zealand Customs Service, the Ministry of Justice, Department of Conservation, WorkSafe NZ, and Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority. FSOG meets quarterly to discuss and understand what is happening in the firearms environment, considering topics such as mental health and firearms, burglary and theft, and firearms diversion. This enables further discussion on whether the right regulatory controls and settings are in place to manage the risks associated with firearms, for both lawful and unlawful possession and use.

## The Ministers Arms Advisory Group

The Ministers Arms Advisory Group (MAAG) was established in June 2020, as a statutory advisory body to advise the Minister of Police and/or responsible Minister on the safe use and control of firearms and any matter relating to Firearms in New Zealand. We support the MAAG with details and insights on firearms data, including performance updates on key FSA projects, such as the firearms Registry implementation. This year, we attended 11 MAAG meetings, to provide the MAAG a number of reports and or respond to requests for firearms data.

## Working with the New Zealand Customs Service

We work with the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) to understand firearms import data and processes at the border. It is through working with our colleagues at the border that we understand that most imported firearms are imported lawfully and with the correct permits.

Customs screens and risk assesses all goods imported into Aotearoa New Zealand using a layered and multi-faceted approach. This includes intelligence received from domestic and international partner agencies, sophisticated software to scan all electronic entries, manual validation of high-risk shipments, x-rays, detector dogs, and physical inspections by our officers and/or border armourer.

Some firearms are stopped at the border because they either do not have the required permits or there was an issue with the customs declaration. The majority of these are resolved between Customs and Te Tari Pūreke / Police. Only in a small number of instances were firearms found that were deliberately concealed to avoid detection from Customs. When concealment or smuggling is detected, the import can be referred for further investigative action.

# Working with NZ Police

As the regulator we work closely with NZ Police for the following reasons:

- » Most of the information and intelligence which informs assessment of risk and the appropriateness of individuals to hold firearms licences is gathered and held by Police as part of its core business. Much of this is highly sensitive and private information and the identification of risk often requires the collation of multiple data and intelligence that individually may not reach a risk threshold, but together demonstrate a pattern suggesting a risk of firearm harm.
- » Timely and accurate information sharing has a direct impact on the risk to safety of frontline Police.
- » Police undertake enforcement action on our behalf when some forms of non-compliance occur, for example the suspension or revocation of a firearms licence.

An area where we work closely with NZ Police is diversion. Diversion refers to the transfer of a firearm from a lawful or authorised person to an unlawful or unauthorised person. This could be a licence holder lending out their firearm to enable someone go hunting, through to an individual being provided money to buy firearms on behalf of another individual (this is called straw-purchasing).

The Registry is one part of a bigger system to deal with firearms harm in our communities. It is designed to mitigate the risk of firearms falling into the wrong hands, by giving greater transparency when firearms are bought and sold, imported, and manufactured. When complete, it will link all lawfully held firearms to an individual licence holder, improving visibility and accountability when firearms are moving around the community.

The Police's Firearms Investigation Team, which was set up to tackle the supply of firearms to criminals, has found half of its investigations into firearms diversion involve a licence holder passing firearms to unlicensed person.

In a recent case before the Courts, NZ Police were able to trace a firearm by restoring most of the serial number that was filed off. This was then cross-referenced with recent sales of the firearm's particular make and model. In their investigation NZ Police identified the initial buyer, who was a firearms licence holder, and intercepted communications between them and the unlicensed person they had on-sold the firearm to.

# Firearms Registry

Once fully populated it will provide a view of all legally held firearms and arms items held in New Zealand. Licence holders operating in the Registry will know that those they are interacting with are current licence holders and that the firearm(s) being transacted are not stolen.

In addition, when firearms are recovered by Police, they can use information held in The Registry, such as make and model, and calibre to track the ownership of the firearm. This will also enhance the level of accountability for licence holders to report incidents related to stolen firearms.

## Supporting safer communities

Following a road rage and wilful damage incident in August 2024, a notice of temporary suspension was prepared for the firearms licence holder. NZ Police issued the suspension to the licence holder and the licence status changed to reflect this. That same day, before NZ Police had served the notice and while the licence holder was unaware of the suspension, the licence holder attempted to purchase a firearm. The dealer transaction portal would not accept the licence number due to the suspension and the dealer rang Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority. After speaking with both the dealer and the licence holder, our staff advised the dealer not to sell the firearm. NZ Police were advised that the licence holder had attempted to purchase a firearm, and the licence holder was served with the suspension notice that evening.

# Registry uptake

By 30 June 2023, 46,245 licence holders, nearly 20 percent, registered their firearms or firearm parts, or declared they had no arms items in the Registry.

Most of the firearms registered are standard non-prohibited firearms, either rifles or shotguns (144,272 and 55,356 respectively). These numbers reflect the purpose for which most firearms licence holders have a firearm, which is hunting. There are just under 20,000 pistols registered.

Firearms licence holders can access and update their firearms holdings online or via telephone. Our staff supported licence holders over the year by:

- » Answering over 84,742 calls.
- » Resolving 82,446 (71 percent) calls at the first point of contact.
- » Escalating the remaining 2298 calls to the appropriate area to provide further technical assistance.

We are continuing to build the knowledge of our staff to better assist and respond to calls to support regulated parties achieve compliance with the legislation.

## 232,322 Arms Items registered

### 222,848 firearms

### 9,474 firearm parts

Non-prohibited	Not Yet Classified	Pistol	Prohibited	Restricted	Non-prohibited	Not Yet Classified	Pistol	Prohibited	Restricted
197,538	102	19,907	2,406	2,895	119	1,168	20,190	10,310	2,895



# Looking to the year ahead

Since our establishment in late 2022, we have made significant progress towards being a more modern regulator. Our journey continues and we have a clear path forward. Over the coming 12 months our focus is on four main areas:

- » Enabling regulated parties to succeed in meeting their legislative obligations - by enhancing our digital channels to make it easier to comply, expanding our partnership and engagement function to ensure communities are well informed and can contribute to firearms safety, and delivering training programmes that enable Māori and those in isolated communities the opportunity to participate.
- » Delivering effective and efficient services by ensuring that we are allocating our resources to the right areas in order to effectively monitor and manage the risks associated with legitimate firearms usage. We'll do this by engaging with regulated parties, partners, and stakeholders to better understand the firearms environment, including licence holder behaviour and the barriers to achieving compliance. This information will inform our intelligence-led approach to our activities and services. We will act in a fair manner to achieve the best safety outcomes, while facilitating the possession and use of firearms.
- » Enabling our people to succeed by investing in our people, to ensure that they have the leadership, support, and technology to enable them to be effective in their roles, and support both the firearms and non-firearms communities.
- » Supporting the Government's firearms priorities, including enabling ammunition sales to be recorded in the firearms Registry, implementing changes as a result of the consultation on clubs and ranges, and informing and responding to any recommendations from the review of the Arms Act and the Firearms Registry.

