

Dealer Pānui

The latest information for firearms dealers

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships | Dealer Pānui April 2025

This is the first Dealer Pānui for 2025. In this, you'll notice we have added a new section "keep up to date on the latest numbers", with information about the Registry, firearms licences and licensing performance.

While the content in this pānui is dealer specific, you are welcome to share the information with your customers if you think it will be of value to them. You can find all editions [here](#) on our website.

In this pānui you can find:

- **Bulletin** - updates and information for licensed dealers
- **Quick fire** - common topics we are hearing from our licensed dealers community
- **Keep up to date on the latest numbers**

Mike McIlraith

Kaihautū Kōtui | Director Partnerships

Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority

Bulletin

Review of the Firearms Registry

The Ministry of Justice has led a review of the Firearms Registry, as part of the government's Coalition Agreement. The outcomes of the [Firearms Registry Review](#) are being considered by government. As a result, Te Tari Pūreke will need to take account of any potential changes to the current regulatory requirements for the Registry and any amendments to the Arms Regulations following Cabinet agreement.

The current regulatory requirements for June 2025 are:

- on or after 24 June 2025, licensed dealers must provide to the Police the particulars of all arms items in their possession. Arms Regulations 1992 Section 41(4) [Arms Regulations 1992 \(SR 1992/346\) \(as at 28 June 2024\) – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- on and from 24 June 2025, ammunition sellers and licensed dealers must record sales of ammunition in the Firearms Registry [Arms Regulations 1992 Section 42\(3\) Arms Regulations 1992 \(SR 1992/346\) \(as at 28 June 2024\) – New Zealand Legislation](#)

- after 24 June 2025, the purchase of ammunition becomes an activating circumstance for firearms licence holders. This means firearms licence holders will need to register all their arms items within 30 days after their purchase of ammunition. [Arms Regulations 1992 Section 41 \(1\)\(e\) Arms Regulations 1992 \(SR 1992/346\) \(as at 28 June 2024\) – New Zealand Legislation](#)

Following Cabinet decisions, we will communicate any changes to firearms licence holders, licensed dealers, and ammunition sellers' legal obligations and provide further information around how we will support you to meet these obligations.

In the meantime, you must keep complying with your legal obligations as specified in the Arms Act 1983 and the Arms Regulations 1992. The law has not changed. You are required to enter and update your details in the Registry when you have an activating circumstance.

If there are any changes to the legal obligations following completion of the review we will let you know directly by email, and we will also post information and support on our website and other Te Tari Pūreke channels.

Increase in wait times for Permit to Import

We are currently experiencing very high demand for permits to import, resulting in increased wait times.

Please consider this when applying for your permits to import and submit your application well in advance of the time you will need it. **Lead times for permit processing are 5 to 7 weeks.** Please also note that this time may increase if you are applying for restricted or prohibited items.

This processing time will remain in place for the foreseeable future, and is being driven by high demand for permits, large numbers of applications for visitor licences and the licence renewal bell-curve.

If you are importing variations of existing arms items, adding a weblink to the model variant and a short description of how it may be different to a standard model will help the permits team process the permit application.

Receiving arms items from expired licence holders

If you take possession of an arms item from someone with an expired licence, you must record the details in your dealer book.

You will not be able to enter it into the online Dealer Transaction form as there is no validated firearms licence to register it against. At some stage you may be contacted by Te Tari Pūreke to confirm that you have the arms item in your possession.

If you receive a restricted or prohibited item, you must surrender it to Police within 5 days. If you receive the arms item from a licence holder (with a valid licence) you must enter the transaction in the online Dealer Transactions form, which you can access from our [Te Tari Pūreke website](#).

When you sell an airgun this must be recorded in your dealer book

When you sell an airgun, you must record the details in your dealer book. These details include the name, address, and details of their identification.

Identification includes, a New Zealand drivers' licence, a New Zealand or international Passport, a Kiwi access card, a firearms licence, a New Zealand Defence Force identity card, a Police Identity card or an identity card issued by the New Zealand Government.

If the person buying the airgun is 18 years old or over, they do not need a firearms licence. If the person is between 16 years and 18 years of age they must hold a valid firearms licence.

Dealer audits

Firearms Dealers have a responsibility to make sure they are compliant with legislation and regulations. To check compliance, your local arms office may conduct additional audit inspections outside of the annual licence renewal cycle.

The audit may cover the following areas:

- Dealer involvement in the business, including any employees
 - Security of arms items and ammunition
 - Overall premises security
 - Dealer records, including compliance with the registry and any record keeping requirements specific to your activity
 - Dealer endorsements and associated arms items.
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Seen something? Do something.

If you are concerned about the behaviour or actions of others as it relates to firearms, don't ignore it. You can call 111 if you are concerned something is happening or about to happen. You can call 105 or report it online using <https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105> if it's not urgent.

If you wish to remain anonymous you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or make an online report at www.crimestoppers-nz.org

If appropriate you can discuss the issue with your local arms officer.

We are committed to working with you to support the safe and responsible use of firearms in New Zealand.

Quick fire

This section is to share information on some of the common topics we are hearing from our licensed dealer community. If you have anything you'd like covered in future editions you can send these to firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz

Validating a firearms licence when it is under renewal

When a licence holder is renewing their licence there will be a 1-to-2-week period where the licence checker will not be able to validate the firearms licence.

In this situation you cannot sell the person an arms items or ammunition.

Once the new licence card is printed, the licence holder will receive notification, including their new version number. Once this detail has been received the licence checker will validate the new licence.

Paying for your licence renewal

If you are applying for, or renewing your licence online you must use the online payment facility.

If you are applying for or renewing your licence using the paper-based process, you can pay using the NZ Post pay a bill facility.

Using your licence as identification

Your firearms licence is a recognised form of identification in New Zealand. It is recommended that you use your licence only for firearm related situations to reduce risk of your licence details being copied.

Contacting our Firearms Registry team

When you call us on 0800 844 431, option 5 will put you through to the dealer team. The dealer team has more experience with licensed dealer related subjects.

Keep an eye out for our Roar and Gamebird advertising campaigns

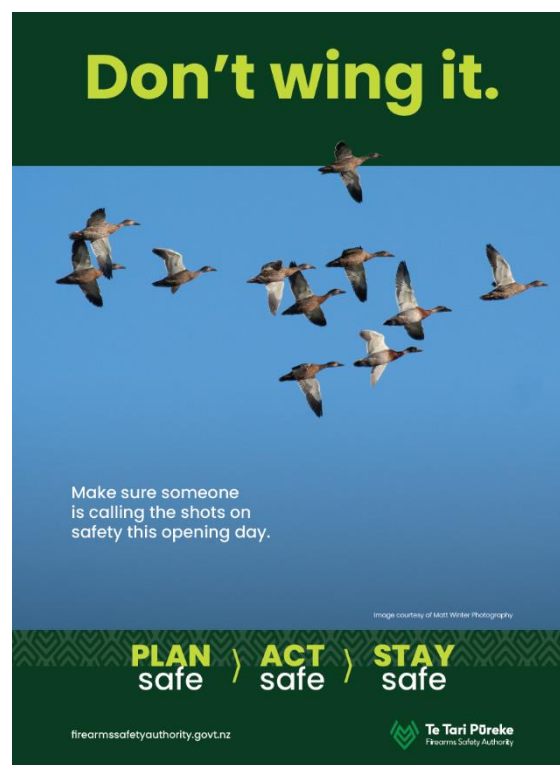
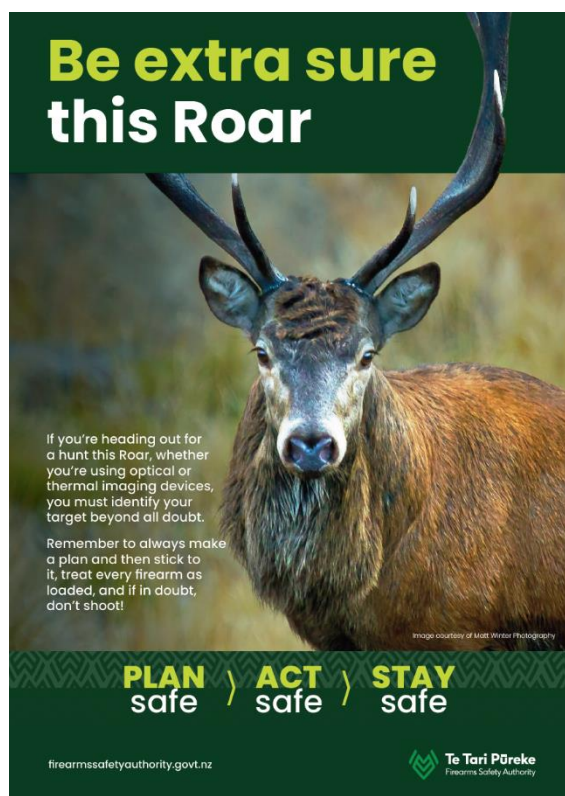
Autumn is in the air and many hunters are already heading out into the hills for the Roar and getting ready for the opening weekend of gamebird season.

Recreational hunting is a big part of many New Zealanders lives, we want everyone involved to have a great time away and to head home safe at the end to their loved ones.

Be extra sure this roar - this roar we're urging hunters everywhere to identify their target beyond all doubt; to make a good plan when hunting with others; and to handle their firearms with care. We are also putting an emphasis in our campaign on the correct use of optics and thermal devices.

Don't wing it - Gamebird hunting is often done in a group, and amongst the excitement it is important that every hunter always follows the basics of firearms safety. Treat every shotgun as loaded, keep the muzzle pointing away from yourself and other people, and leave the drinks until after the shotguns are unloaded and locked away. 'Don't wing it' this opening day, a little bit of planning will help you have a safe and successful opening weekend.

You can find more information and resources on our [Roar Safety](#) page.



Keep up to date on the latest numbers

We want to ensure we are continuing to provide you up to date information about the Firearms Registry and licensing performance. So, we have added a new section with the latest numbers.

- Active firearms licences summary by type - Individual, Visitor and Dealer
- Firearms licensing completion summary - Individual, Visitor and Dealer. This section now has the total number of licences completed in the given month, rather than a percentage, and broken down into different licence types.
- Firearms Registry update - including total firearms, parts and licence holders registered

On our website we also proactively release firearms regulatory information to help people better understand features of the licence holder community, and aspects of the performance of New Zealand's firearms regulatory framework. [Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

1 March 2025

1 April 2025

Active firearms licences summary | 1 March 2025

Individual	230,030
Visitor	167
Dealer	427
Total	230,624

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Active firearms licences summary | 1 April 2025

Individual	229,513
Visitor	253
Dealer*	429
Total	230,195

*A person who holds a dealer licence must also hold an individual licence

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Firearms licensing completion summary | 1 March 2025

	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Individual	1,628	2,152
Visitor	82	57
Dealer	13	34

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Firearms licensing completion summary | 1 April 2025

	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
Individual	2,152	2,197
Visitor	57	236
Dealer	34	32

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Firearms Registry Update | 1 March 2025

Total Firearms Registered	366,297
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Total Firearms Parts Registered	13,202
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Total Licence Holders Registered	76,435
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Total Licence Holders registered refers to all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part

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Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

Firearms Registry Update | 1 April 2025

Total Firearms Registered	386,329
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Total Firearms Parts Registered	13,692
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Total Licence Holders Registered	80,790
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Total Licence Holders registered refers to all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part

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If you have feedback on this pānui or there's anything you would like to see in future editions, please email firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz



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You are subscribed because you are interested in information for licensed dealers.