

9 January 2025

IR-01-24-42316

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 2 December 2024.
You asked:

Could you please provide the following information for both July 2022 to June 2023, and July 2023 to June 2024:

**The number of pistol endorsement holders.*

**The number of pistol endorsement holders who did not meet the conditions of their endorsement (including any relevant breakdown of the different conditions that were not met)*

** Information on the follow up actions undertaken by Te Tari Pūreke of those who did not meet the conditions of their pistol*

** The outcomes of that follow up, eg number of revocations of endorsement*

I have answered each question below.

****The number of pistol endorsement holders.***

Firstly, and by way of background, the annual 12-shoot requirement and membership of a certified pistol club are essential conditions a firearms licence holder must meet to hold the Target Pistol Shooting Endorsement. This is also known as the 'B' endorsement and gives them the lawful ability to own and use a target pistol on a certified range. They must meet these conditions to demonstrate they are eligible to use this specialist firearm in line with the conditions of the endorsement.

I refer you to Table 1 below that shows the number of unique firearms licence holders that hold a B-endorsement, for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years requested.

Note that this data is point in time, and the "current as of" date differs for each financial year. The data sets used match information released publicly via the Te Tari Pūreke website linked below.

[Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

Table 1: Number of Unique Firearms Licence holders with Pistol Endorsements for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years

Financial Year	Unique licence holders with pistol endorsements
2022/23	4,044
2023/24	3,863

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA)

Active endorsements by type includes licence holders who are legally allowed to possess firearms by holding a current firearms licence and an active endorsement. The number of B-endorsement holders does not include those who may have held an endorsement during that financial year but are no longer active when the data was pulled from the system.

This data includes endorsement applications in progress where a licence holder has applied to renew their licence prior to the expiry date but does not include those that have been applied for after the expiry date and are awaiting processing.

Licences that have been temporarily suspended while awaiting a revocation decision, which hold an endorsement, have been excluded as the licence holder is unlicensed during this period. Deceased and expired endorsement holders that still hold an active licence are excluded from this data however Te Tari Pūreke is actively following up on each of these.

****The number of pistol endorsement holders who did not meet the conditions of their endorsement (including any relevant breakdown of the different conditions that were not met)***

**** Information on the follow up actions undertaken by Te Tari Pureke of those who did not meet the conditions of their pistol***

I refer you to Table 2 below that shows the number of firearms licence holders that did not meet the conditions of their B-endorsement, broken down by the condition that was not met, for the 2022/23 financial year. Note that the 12-shoot requirement changed during this financial year to "12 shooting events" as opposed to "club events" as was previously.

Please note that the response to this part of your request for the 2022/23 financial year was collated and produced manually, and may not be fully accurate.

Table 2: Firearms Licence holders not meeting the conditions of their B-Endorsement, in the 2022/23 financial year

Financial Year 2022/23	Number of B-Endorsement holders not meeting conditions	Condition defaulted
	458	12-shoot requirements incomplete
Total		458

As at 30 June 2023, 4,044 licence holders held a B-endorsement for pistol target shooting. Of those, 458 did not complete their 12-shoot requirement during the 2022/23 financial year.

Of the 458 who did not complete this requirement, 64 were found to be compliant and no further action was taken, 18 had expired firearms licences and no further action was taken. Please note that Te Tari Pūreke does not receive pistol club returns until after the end of the financial year, and cannot investigate until it receives the returns. The “18” had expired prior to an investigation. Licences may expire at any time during the year prior to investigation, and this may have been the reason why some did not complete their 12 shoots, as they had expired and not intended to renew.

280 licence holders were issued a licence review or warning letter, 86 voluntarily surrendered their B-endorsement while 10 licence holders were referred to Te Tari Pūreke’s Resolutions team for consideration of revocation of their B-endorsement.

The failure to meet legal obligations is concerning. Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority relies on certified pistol clubs to alert it to breaches. The clubs’ annual returns are received some months after the end of the reporting year and are, by their nature, backwards looking. As a result, follow up action inevitably occurs sometime after the breach has occurred.

The Authority adopts the four E approach to compliance. That is, we step through an escalating series of actions starting with engagement, moving to education and encouragement, and if necessary, we begin enforcement action.

I refer you to Table 3 below that shows the number of firearms licence holders that did not meet the conditions of their B-endorsement, broken down by the condition that was not met, for the 2023/24 financial year.

Table 3: Firearms Licence holders not meeting the conditions of their B-Endorsement, in the 2023/24 financial year

Financial Year 2023/24	Number of B- Endorsement holders not meeting conditions	Condition defaulted
	337	incomplete 12 shoot requirements
	104	not current Pistol club member
Total		441

As at 30 June 2024, 3,863 firearms licence holders had a B-endorsement for target pistol shooting. Of those, 337 did not meet the 12-shoot requirement during the 2023/24 financial year. An additional 104 licence holders with a B-endorsement did not belong to any certified pistol club during that period. This totals 441 licence holders who did not meet the conditions of their endorsement.

Of the 441 defaulters, a total of 78 (comprising of 64 defaulting the 12-shoot and 14 defaulting pistol club membership requirements) were found to be compliant and no further action was taken.

A total of 190 (comprising of 174 defaulting the 12-shoot and 16 defaulting pistol club membership requirements) were issued a warning letter and a total of 82 (comprising of 59 12-shoot defaulters and 23 defaulting pistol club membership requirements) were referred to Te Tari Pūreke’s Resolutions team for consideration of revocation of their B-endorsement.

A total of 87 (comprising of 39 12-shoot defaulters and 48 defaulting pistol club membership requirements) voluntarily surrendered their B-endorsements.

In relation to licence holders defaulting on pistol club membership requirements, in some instances, it was established that the licence holder was a member of another club, or the club returns were not correct. In a small number of cases, the 'no club membership' was a recent circumstance, and there had been no other breaches. In this case the licence holder was contacted, and an improvement notice issued requiring new club membership and to complete a shooting activity with that new club. If this improvement notice was complied with, the licence holder was permitted to keep the endorsement.

Note, in relation to the total of 104 B-endorsement holders who defaulted their pistol club membership requirement, as at 6 December 2024, there are four events in progress, comprising of:

- 1 – likely to be issued a warning letter
- 1 – likely to be escalated to resolutions,
- 2 – likely to surrender their B endorsement.

Note that the purpose of the 12-shoot requirement is to demonstrate a genuine sporting, recreational or competitive reason for owning and using a target pistol. The 12 shooting days are organised by a certified pistol club, and the endorsement holder must be a club member. Each shoot must be held under organised and supervised conditions in the club environment. The pistol club's annual report must include a list of shooting activities held in the past year and scheduled for the following year.

The Shooting Club Guide accessible on the Authority's website at <https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-12/Shooting-Club-Guide-2.pdf> further notes that: "A fundamental principle of the Arms Act is that possessing and using firearms is a privilege, not a right. This applies to all firearms including pistols. Pistols pose particular risks because they can be easily concealed so are desirable for illegal use, and because large-capacity pistol magazines are not regulated as large-capacity magazines are for other types of firearms."

**** The outcomes of that follow up, eg number of revocations of endorsement***

Stand-alone B-endorsement revocations and suspensions figures during the current financial year (as at 25 November 2024) is provided below.

Between 1 July 2024 and 25 November 2024, there were a total of 14 stand-alone B-endorsement suspensions. Of those, eight were subsequently revoked, one was surrendered, one was not revoked and the remaining four are awaiting a final revocation decision.

Between 1 July 2024 and 25 November 2024, there were a total of 11 stand-alone B-endorsement revocations (eight of which were suspended during the current financial year and three during the previous 2023/24 financial year). All 11 revocations have been due to a failure to meet the 12-shoot obligations and/or are not a member of a pistol club.

Endorsement revocations includes B-endorsement holders that were investigated for non-compliance during both the current and previous financial year where the subsequent revocation has occurred during the current financial year. These figures will therefore also include those where the suspension occurred during the previous financial year but the revocation occurred during the current financial year.

Data contained in this response is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Nāku noa, nā



Matthew Boddy
Acting Director Operations
Firearms Safety Authority

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