



Delivery and Performance Summary

July 2024 — June 2025



Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

OUR VISION

The possession and use of firearms
in Aotearoa is the safest in the world

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

Cover image courtesy of Ross Nava.

v01 September 2025



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Executive Statement



Angela Brazier

Executive Director
Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority

A collective effort keeping New Zealanders safe

Te Tari Pūreke is the regulator responsible for overseeing the legitimate possession and use of firearms in New Zealand. This means we have a mandate – the Arms Act 1983 – to ensure firearms licence holders understand and comply with the legislation that keeps them and others safe.

Our role as the regulator is just one part of a wider collective effort, because we believe that keeping our communities safe from firearms-related harm is a shared responsibility, and that everyone – licence holders, government agencies and communities – all have a part to play.

Delivering as a modern firearms regulator

In the pages that follow, we are reporting another solid year of delivery across our key measures. Nonetheless, we know there is always more to be accomplished.

We are pleased to report that we have:

- » delivered on our legislative obligation of recording ammunition sales in the Registry.

- » managed the increased demand of licensing applications while continuing to minimise the impact on licence holders.
- » completed activities to modernise and expand firearms safety training.

Firearms Registry contributing to public safety

During the year, the Ministry of Justice undertook an external review of the Firearms Registry and its main findings were that:

- » the Firearms Registry should continue as planned
- » early indications show the Registry contributes to public safety
- » diversion of firearms to the black market is a threat to public safety and the Registry mitigates that risk
- » the Registry has been cost-effective
- » the Registry meets government standards for security of personal information.

We are encouraged that the review of the Registry supports the work we are doing and the value of the Registry. With 40 percent of licence holders now in the Registry, our anticipated rate of up-take is on track.

We are adapting for the future

The firearms environment is continually changing, and we will need to continually adapt our activities in ways that will best support licence holders and the wider community. We will continue to investigate ways to streamline our services to both support licence holder compliance and minimise costs to the taxpayer.

Te Tari Pūreke has been contributing to the Ministry of Justice work on the re-write of the Arms Act and already started considering the ways in which this might change the regulatory landscape. At the same time, we are working with partner agencies to mitigate the potential for harm caused by emerging technology such as 3D printed firearms.

As we reflect on the year behind us, and the one that lies ahead, we remain committed to working in collaboration with the many people who share our vision that **‘the possession and use of firearms in Aotearoa is the safest in the world’**.

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

Contents



»	Introduction	<u>6</u>
»	Section 1 Licence holder demographics	<u>9</u>
»	Section 2 Ensuring only 'fit and proper' individuals hold a firearms licence	<u>12</u>
»	Section 3 Supporting regulated parties to succeed	<u>36</u>
»	Section 4 Working with other agencies	<u>42</u>
»	Looking to the year ahead	<u>47</u>



"The purpose underlying all firearms legislation is the need, in the public interest, to reduce damage from the misuse of firearms. An ideal firearms regime would prevent misuse without interfering with legitimate use. But in practice some interference with legitimate use may be unavoidable if one is to meet the public interest in limiting misuse."

– Review of Firearms
Control in New Zealand
– the 'Thorp Report'
(June 1997)

Introduction

Our vision is that the *possession and use of firearms in Aotearoa New Zealand is the safest in the world.*

As the firearms regulator, we are taking an outcomes-focused approach to realise this vision. Focusing on outcomes means prioritising our limited resources on the areas of highest risk where we can make the biggest impact.

A key element of this is continuing to build our understanding of the behavioural drivers in the firearm system. This is important because, as a regulator, we want to incentivise lawful behaviour whilst ensuring those who have fallen into non-compliance are given appropriate support to do the right thing, as part of our 'four E' approach to engage, educate, encourage, enforce.

We know that many different stakeholders contribute to the safety and success of the firearms system. We are always looking for opportunities to work with organisations that can deliver initiatives that benefit the whole system.

"A key part of making New Zealand the safest country is having a world class firearms licensing regime that is exacting in its ability to ensure the risk of inappropriate people having firearms is mitigated, allowing everyone to be safe and feel safe. This is a generational opportunity to improve the safety of New Zealanders."

Then Commissioner of Police, In the Foreword to the Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority, *Regulatory Strategy 2023–2027*

Real-time information-sharing with Police removes MSSAs from high-risk setting

A search warrant executed in Napier in June 2025 demonstrated the value of working alongside frontline Police to share real-time intelligence. It enabled rapid risk assessments and interventions to keep the public safe.

The Authority suspended a 42-year-old man's firearms licence after he was involved in a serious driving incident. The concerns about his fitness to hold a licence led to Police visiting his home with a search warrant. They seized five prohibited firearms, prohibited magazines, prohibited parts, prohibited ammunition, and a pistol, which he was not licensed to possess.

Police said one of the most disturbing aspects involved the discovery of firearms in children's bedrooms. *"The firearms were not locked away as required and ammunition was also accessible. Officers were concerned that vulnerable children could have access to the firearms,"* said Detective Senior Sergeant James Keene.

The man was remanded in custody and the case is proceeding.



Our role and purpose

The Arms Act 1983 (Arms Act) provides the framework that seeks to protect the public from the harm 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 oversees 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 regulatory regime that minimises the risk of firearms getting into the hands of criminals, and delivers the intent of the Arms Act.

Te Tari Pūreke's 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 and Regulations.
- » **Working with NZ Police** and other partners to enforce compliance with the law when this is required.

Our three guiding principles

As a regulator, we are guided by 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 communities safe from firearm-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 firearms is a privilege that comes with a responsibility to act in the interest 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 licence holders, we are consistent and fair

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

How this report is organised

This year our work was based around four key themes:

- » enabling licence holders to succeed
- » being an effective and efficient regulator
- » enabling our people to succeed; and
- » supporting the Government's firearm reform programme.

This report explains what we have done to realise these four themes over the last 12 months and is split 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 generally presented to the end of the Financial Year (to 30 June) 2025, unless otherwise stated.



» 1 Licence holder demographics

Firearms licence holders

As at 30 June 2025, there were 227,995 active individual licence holders, of whom 429 also held a dealer's licence. Over the year the number of firearm licence holders declined by 4430.

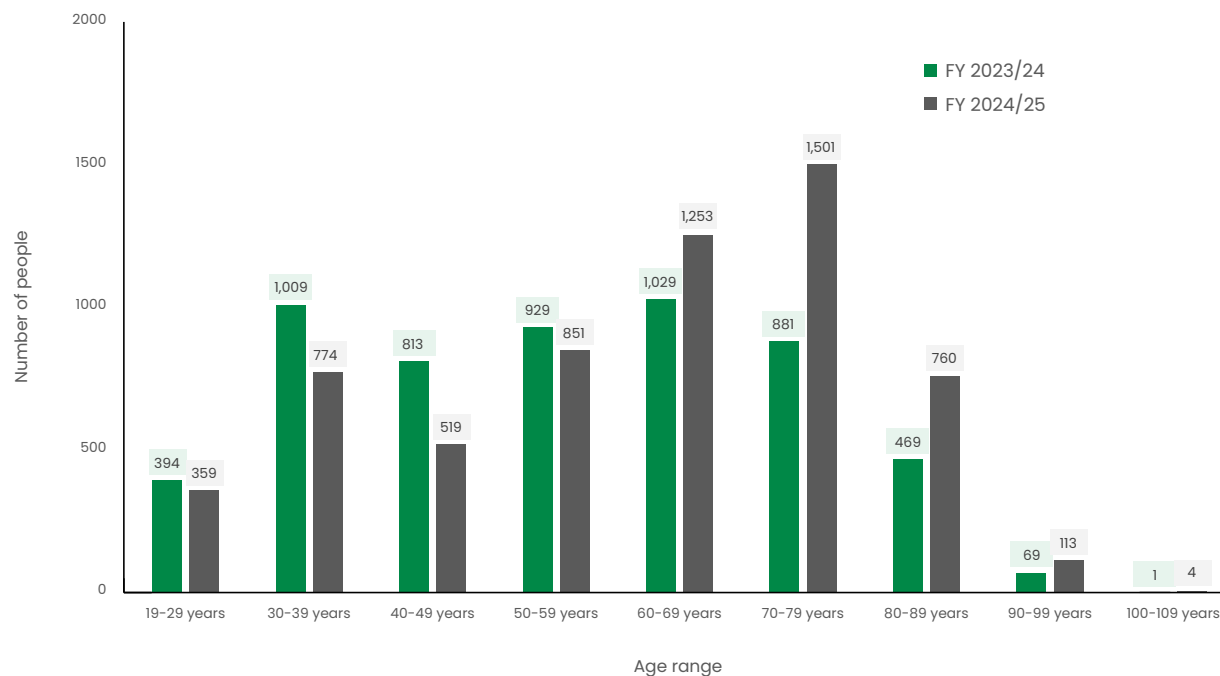
Declining licence holder numbers

In last year's report, we noted that approximately 20 percent of individuals didn't renew their licence due to factors such as age or health. Anecdotally, we understand this decline is a long-term trend and driven by a variety of factors, for example: change in circumstances; time availability, and economic pressures. As a regulator, we will continue to monitor the drivers behind licensing numbers.

People choosing not to renew their licence

This year 6134 licence holders elected not to renew their licence, this was an increase of 540 from the previous year.

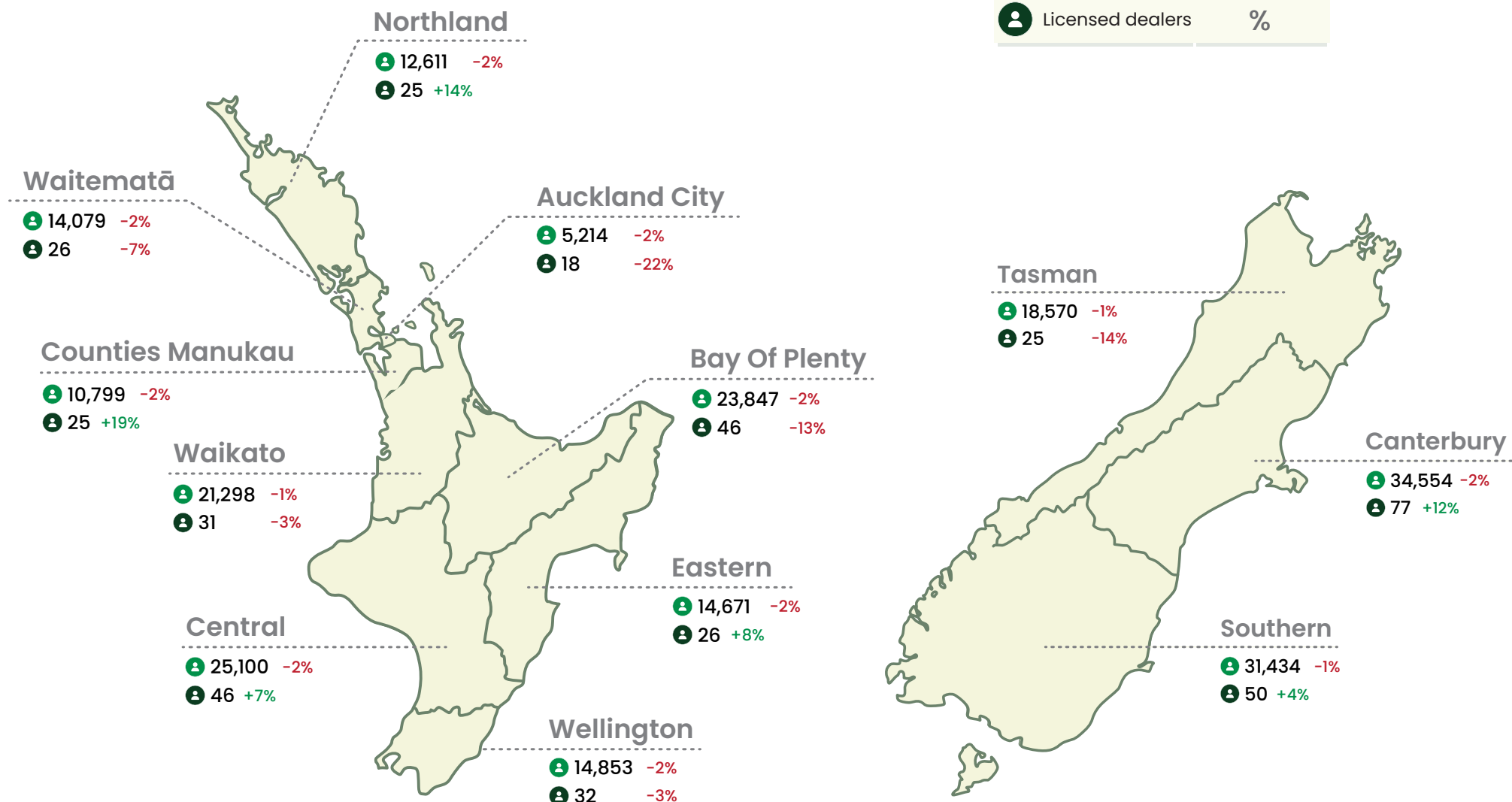
Over the next few years almost 40 percent of licences will reach their expiry date and licence holders will decide whether they wish to renew their licence or dispose of their firearms. Due to factors like those noted above, we expect the total number of non-renewals to increase. However, the overall percentage of licence holders deciding not to renew their licence is not expected to change significantly.



Where firearms licence holders live

With the exception of dealer's licences which have remained static at a national total of 429, we've seen a 1 percent to 2 percent decline in the total number of individual licence holders across all 12 regions.

Financial Year 2024/25	Change from FY 2023/24
Individual licence holders	%
Licensed dealers	%





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

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



The meaning of 'fit and proper'

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 in the [Arms Act 1983, Section 24A](#)

Our first Guiding Principle makes clear that 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. We know that New Zealanders expect our decision-making about who is suitable to legitimately possess and use a firearm to be robust and effective.

The Arms Act outlines the circumstances in which a person may not be 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 here 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.

It is important to emphasise that a licence holder's fit and proper status is not considered solely at the time of their application, but remains an enduring set of expectations for as long as they hold their licence.



The types of firearms licence an individual needs

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 a pistol, restricted weapon or prohibited arms item, 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

Obtaining a firearms licence

As outlined in the previous section, one criteria to be deemed 'fit and proper' is to demonstrate a sound knowledge of the safe possession and use of firearms and an understanding of the legal obligations of a firearms licence holder.

For new licence applicants, the first thing we do after they have submitted their application is provide them with a reference number that enables them to book a firearms safety course.

The course has two components, a theory test and a practical training session. A core part of the course is ensuring that applicants understand and can demonstrate the [7 Rules of Firearms Safety](#). You can learn more about the training we provide in the section Supporting Licence Holders to Succeed.

To support potential (and current) licence holders to enhance their understanding of firearms safety, we created our 7 Safety Rules videos, which demonstrate the practical applications of the rules, using relatable real-world scenarios.

You can view the videos at youtube.com/@FirearmsSafetyAuthorityNZ.

Once an applicant has passed a firearms safety course, their application moves to the next stage where we use a broad range of assessments. These include criminal or medical assessment checks, interviews with the applicant and their referees, and inspections of their security arrangements. Based on this information a decision is made whether the applicant's licence will be approved. If approved, they are then issued with a firearms licence card.

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



Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

What a firearms licence looks like

This licence card image sourced from NZ Police website announcement in 2021:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/news/release/police-announce-modernised-firearms-licence-cards>



Time taken to gain a firearms licence

There will be a high demand for the renewal of firearms licences over the next few years (see Figure 1 on the next page). This is due to changes to the Arms Act 1992 after the Aramoana mass shooting, when licence holders were transitioned from a lifetime licence to a ten-year renewal period. This cyclical effect is called the licensing bell-curve.

The licensing bell-curve presents Te Tari Pūreke with a challenge as we seek to balance public safety with the imperative to provide timely licensing decisions.

Taking steps to manage high volumes

To manage the high number of licence renewals within our existing resources, going forward (from 2025/26) we have set a target to process a baseline of 21,000 per annum. Managing our resources by volume means we can keep our focus on first-time applications and reapplications that have the highest level of complexity, whilst reducing the effect of the bell-curve in future cycles by creating a more even spread of licence renewals every year. Achieving this goal will allow us to make more efficient use of our resources.

Licence holders submitting before expiry will not be impacted

There does not need to be an impact on individuals renewing their licence during this period, as long as they submit their renewal application prior to the expiry of their current licence. This is because the Arms Act contains a provision (section 25(a)) for a licence to remain valid beyond its expiry date, to enable licence holders to continue to possess and use a firearm as long as they have submitted their renewal application.

Public safety remains paramount

We mitigate impacts on public safety because:

- » Individuals who continue to use an existing licence remain subject to ongoing eligibility scanning through reports and intelligence from Police and other agencies, and must maintain their fit and proper status.
- » We will continue to focus our resources on first-time applications and renewals with the highest complexity.



Our licensing performance

We measure our service performance for licensing by the percentage of applications processed within 90 days from receipt of a fully completed application. In addition to our own processes, our ability to complete the necessary activities within 90 days can be significantly affected by the applicant's ability to provide all the required information, or when they complete a Firearms Safety Course.

In the 2024/25 reporting year, we increased the number of licenses issued whilst meeting our standard in relation to the percentage processed within 90 days. While there was a small increase in the median days for first time licence holders, most licence applications (renewals) were completed faster than last year.

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

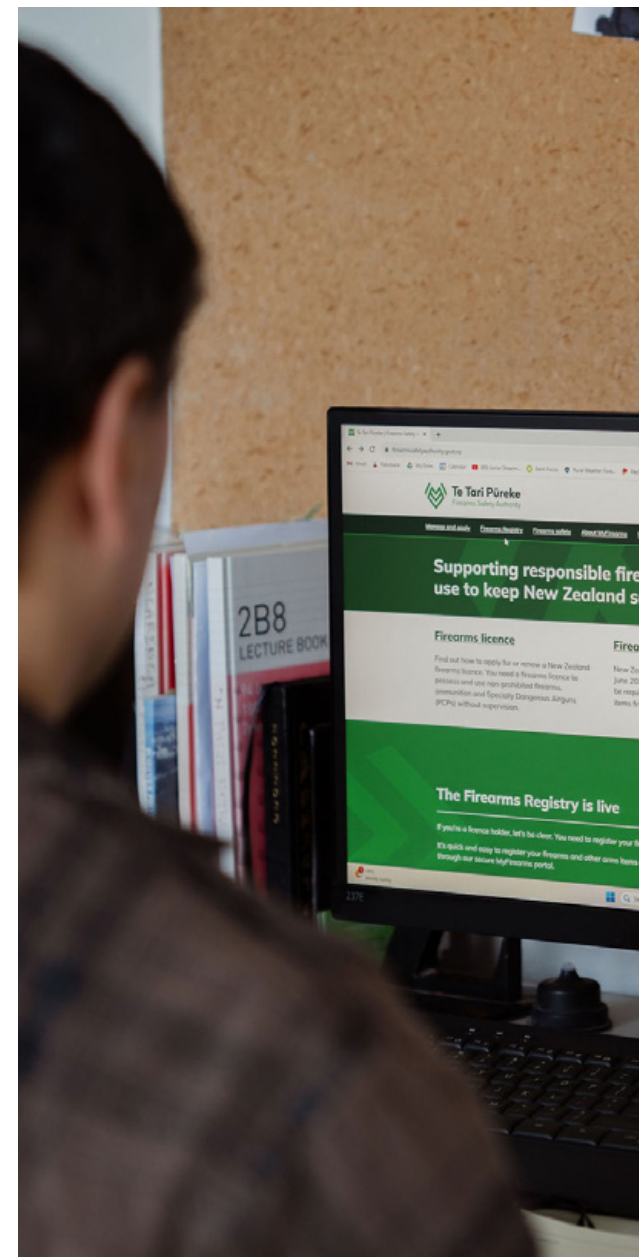
FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	Standard
39%	88%	80%	At least 80%

Demand for licences

This year we issued 25,119 firearms licences, which is an increase of 5,447 on the previous year.

	First time licence holders		Held a licence for five or more years		Combined Total	
	Demand	Issued	Demand	Issued	Demand	Issued
2023/24	6055	6052	15,537	13,620	21,592	19,672
2024/25	5833	5353	22,088	19,766	27,921	25,119

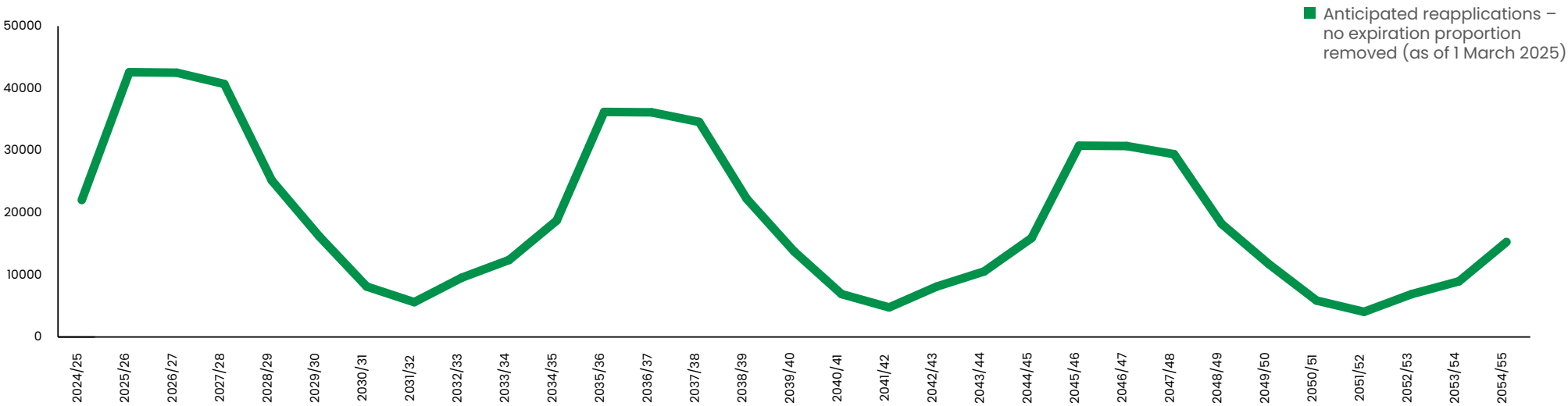
The anticipated peaks in licensing demand over the next few years, coupled with our efforts to smooth out the bell-curve, means it will remain a challenge to meet this target until we can fully transition to a more stable and effective resourcing model that is set up for long-term success.



Overall licence processing timeframes – median number of days

	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	Change in median days to process
First-time licence holders	51 days	58 days	+7 days
Held a licence for five or more years	63 days	60 days	-3 days

Firearms licence expiry dates, FY2024/25 to FY2054/55



Licence refusals

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

During the year we refused:

- » 338 individual licence applications. This continued the downward trend in refusals from 735 in the 2022/23 FY and 421 in the 2023/24 FY respectively.
- » 2 dealer's licence applications, which was a decrease from 3 in the previous year.

Reasons for refusing a licence application

The main reasons for refusing an application under the Arms Act 1983 in the past year were:

181

for non-compliance

with the requirements of the Act, Regulations or conditions applying to the licence or endorsement or permits under section 24A(1)(g)

41

due to the risk of firearms being accessed

by someone who is not fit and proper under sections 22(H)b, 24A(1)(d) and 24A(1)(e)

91

for failure to complete or pass the firearms safety course – regulation 14.

20

for alcohol/drug abuse

under sections 24A(1)(i) and 24A(1)(j)

74

for being disqualified due to convictions for violent and other serious offending

for offences under sections 22H(a) and 24A(1)(a)(b)(c)

11

for gang affiliations

under section 24A(1)(k)

The right to have refusal decisions reviewed

Any applicant who has had their firearm licence refused can apply to have the decision reviewed by a commissioned officer (Police) under Section 62 of the Arms Act.

This year we had 33 requests for review, with 20 (60%) being upheld and 13 (40%) having the refusal overturned.

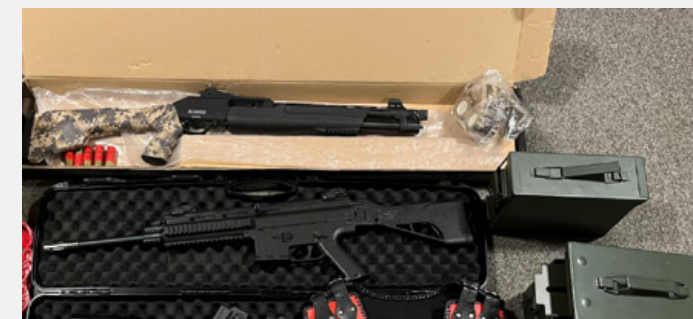
The power of the Registry to prevent gang-related harm

The ability to trace firearms through the Registry prevented further firearms harm and resulted in a licence holder being held to account for diverting firearms to a man with gang links.

In November 2024, Police seized a .22 rifle and a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun, along with ammunition and cannabis, from a Kapiti Mongrel Mob prospect.

Using the simple but critical connection of tracing the firearms through the Registry, Police identified the licence holder who had registered the items. His licence was revoked and in June 2025 he pleaded guilty in the Porirua District Court to two charges of unlawfully supplying a firearm. He was convicted and sentenced to 250 hours community work. The Court ordered the firearms to be forfeited to the Crown and destroyed.

The Registry has closed a previous gap in the system. *“While the Registry is not yet fully populated it is already changing the game for us. Without the Registry linking the seized firearms to the suspect licence holders, the flow-on activity arguably would not have occurred.”* DSS Mike Sears, Wellington District Investigations Group.



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 ('A category') 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 endorsement on a personal firearms licence 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 licence holders must meet. For example, pest control endorsements expire every two-and-a-half years.

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

	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	Reduction in median days to process
First time licence holder	91 days	86 days	5 days
Held a licence for five or more years	84 days	80 days	4 days



Other applications

Visitor licence applications (short-term licences)

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's firearms licence (a short-term licence for up to 12 months issued to a visitor who holds a licence in their own country).

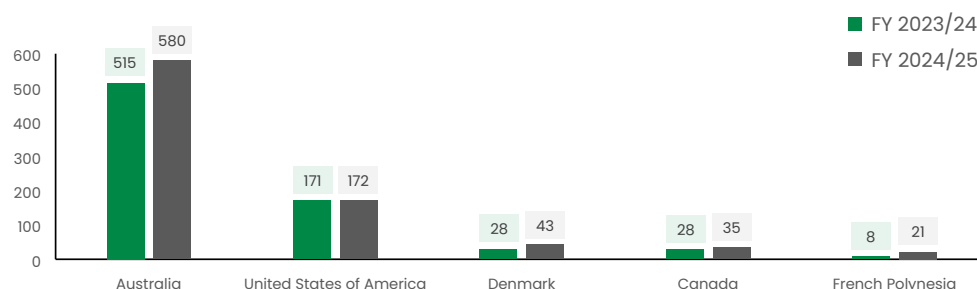
Visitor application demand is primarily linked to two sources: the hunting season, which is cyclical in nature, and competitive shooting events. Some competitive events are scheduled and able to be anticipated but others are arranged on a less formal basis.

The number of visitor's licences issued this year was 933, an increase of 90 from the previous year. Even with the increase in applications, we reduced the median number of days required to process applications from 77 to 70 days.

Where our visitors are coming from

Unsurprisingly, 62 percent of visitor licences applications come from Australia with the next highest number of visitors coming from the United States of America (18 percent).

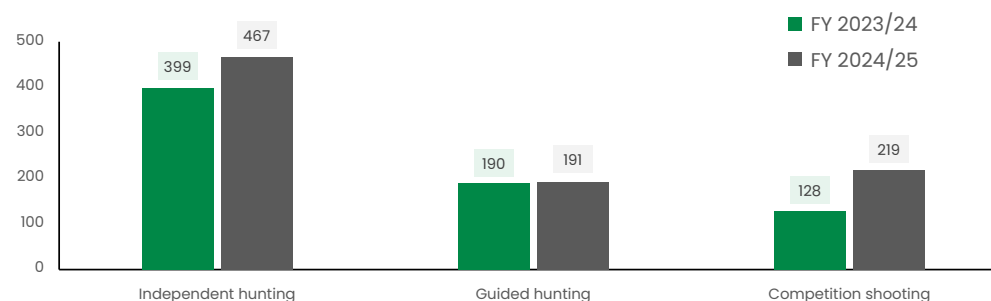
Top 5 countries for visitor licence applications



What activities visitors are applying for

As shown in the table below, independent hunting is the primary reason for visitors seeking a firearms licence.

Visitor application – top 3 activities



Dealer's licences

People who carry out activities such as selling, hiring, lending or supplying firearms and other arms items requires a dealer's licence and endorsements.

We inspect dealer's licence holders to ensure compliance with the Arms Act, and this year we achieved our performance target of 100 percent.

Percentage of firearm dealers inspected for compliance with the Arms Act

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Standard
92%	82%	100%	100%

This improvement from the 2023/24 FY was the result of introducing a new process for managing dealers, which has improved our consistency, accuracy and efficiency for processing applications. We expect to see on-going improvements in this area that will align with our performance standard.

Permits

Permit to import an arms item

To import a firearm or arms part, you need a permit. This is an important control point for us because it allows us to control both the type and volume of firearms entering Aotearoa New Zealand.

An individual wanting to import a firearm or arms part not currently available onshore can apply for a permit to provide a sample to our classification panel. The panel will assess the potential impact of that item being included in Aotearoa New Zealand's arms inventory, and on that basis decide what classification it should receive.

Permit to possess an arms item

A Licence Holder with an appropriate endorsement can apply for a permit to possess specific arms items such as pistols, prohibited firearms and magazines or restricted weapons. In common with permits, endorsements act as another important control point to ensure only licence holders able to meet the required conditions can possess these items.

Permit processing volumes for 2024/25

Permits	Import	Possess
Issued	2886	4691
Issued and not yet used	1159	20
Issued and used	1615	4491
Issued but expired or surrendered	112	180
Refused	39	2
Cancelled	69	62
Total applications completed	2994	4755

Ensuring compliance with legislation

Overview

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 regime designed to ensure personal and public safety, security of firearms, and the responsible possession and use of firearms.

To enable the firearms community to achieve and maintain compliance with the law, we produce guidance material designed to increase licence holders' awareness of their safety and regulatory obligations. For people who prefer to make contact with us personally, we endeavour to have staff available to answer questions at a range of community and national events such as the SIKA show.

We believe the safe use and possession of firearms is a shared responsibility, and that providing comprehensive guidance material empowers licence holders to play the lead role in keeping themselves, their families, and our communities safe from firearms harm.

The notion of 'shared responsibility' is reflected by the actions of approximately 30 percent of licence holders who have proactively chosen to register their firearms, prior to having an activating event.

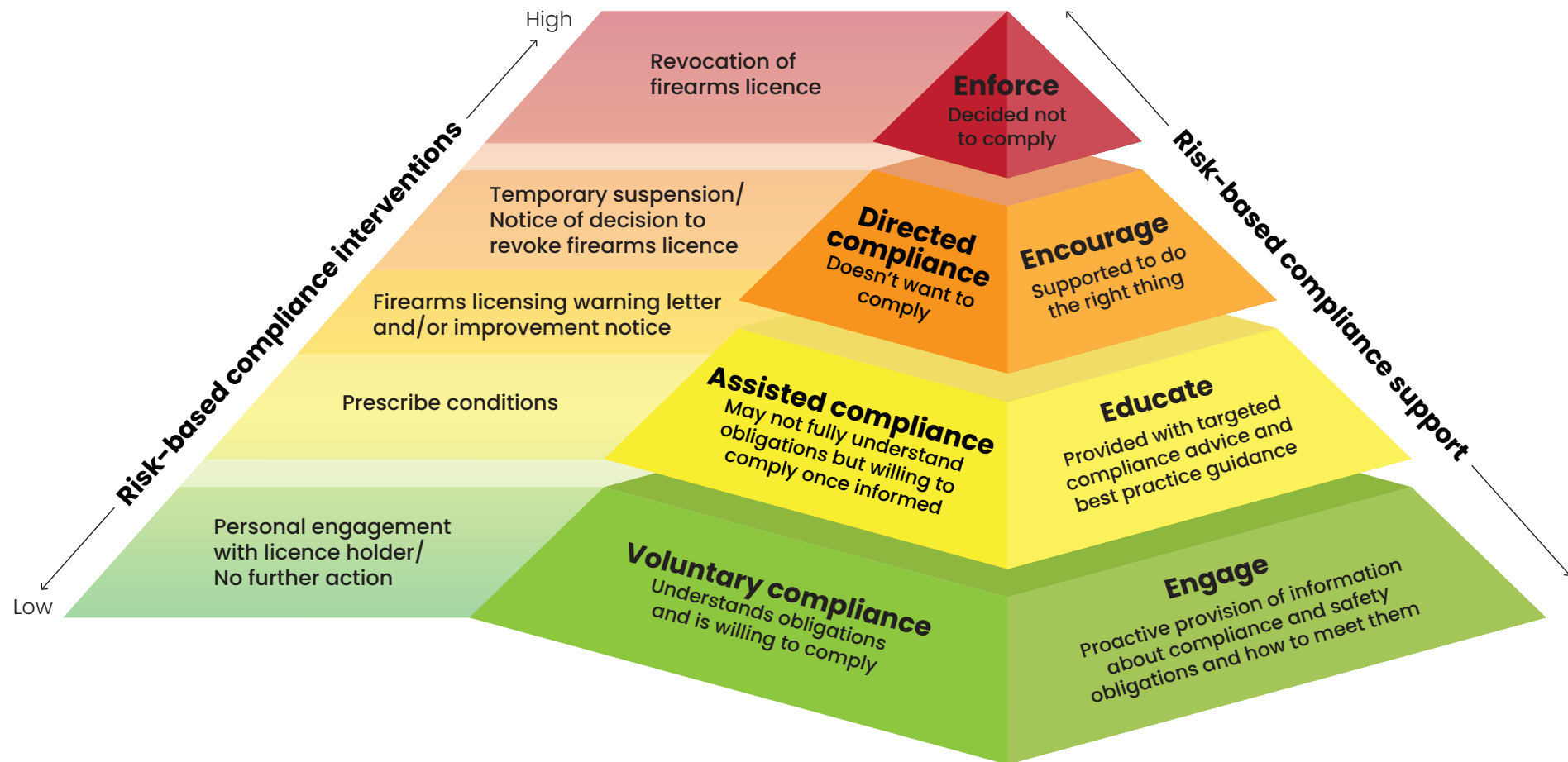


Our approach to achieving compliance

Like many New Zealand regulators, we use the Voluntary, Assisted, Directed and Enforce (VADE) model to describe how we achieve compliance and deal with cases of non-compliance. This model is complemented by our 4Es – Engage, Educate, Encourage and Enforce – which describe the different ways in which we support licence holders.

You can see how these two models fit with our regulatory tools in the image below.

In the spirit of shared responsibility, our strong preference is to enable high levels of voluntary compliance, where licence holders understand their obligations and are proactive in taking steps to ensure they remain compliant with the law. However, if a licence holder's behaviour leaves us with no option, we will intervene to ensure they meet their obligations and that public safety isn't compromised.



Activating circumstances

The Arms Regulations 1992 require licence holders to register their firearms and specified arms items 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 a 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

Activating circumstances during FY 2024/25			
71,893			
Resolved circumstances		Circumstances pending resolution	
69,767 (97%)		2,126 (3%)	
First-time licence holder	Licence held for five years or more	First-time licence holder	Licence held for five years or more
17,806	51,964	507	1,619

Ammunition purchases are now an activating circumstance

In June 2025, the purchase of ammunition became an activating circumstance, to support uptake of the Registry. Additionally, recording ammunition sales digitally also requires firearms dealers and ammunition sellers to validate the buyer's firearms licence. This ensures ammunition is always being sold to a current firearms licence holder.

To ensure the firearms community was fully informed about this change, we sent out personal emails to 419 ammunition dealers, 44 ammunition sellers and more than 200,000 licence holders. Emails were sent a fortnight before the change-over and again closer to the 24 June start date.

As well as sending emails to licence holders, we ran a print media campaign taking half-page adverts in 23 provincial/metropolitan newspapers, 46 community newspaper titles, and two Sunday newspapers. These ran in the week prior to 24 June and in the week after the new regulations took effect. Paid advertising was also taken in a range of specialist hunting and sporting magazines.

To further extend our reach, the Partnerships and Communities Directorate shared messaging with firearms representative organisations so they could play an active part in ensuring their members were aware of the changes.

A couple of things are changing about ammunition and the Firearms Registry

From 24 June, 2025, some changes are happening relating to ammunition and the Firearms Registry. These will help us ensure ammunition is only being sold to current firearms licence holders, and support the smooth uptake of the Registry over the coming years. Here's what you need to know.



1. When buying ammunition, the sale will be recorded by the firearms dealer or ammunition seller

On and from 24 June 2025, the firearms dealer or ammunition seller selling you ammunition, must record the ammunition sale in the Firearms Registry using the online Dealer Transactions form. This is a record of the sale, not a registration of ammunition.

As the licence holder, you do not need to record the ammunition you purchase. The Arms Regulations say the firearms dealer or ammunition seller needs to record the sale. This is at the time the ammunition is dispatched or handed over, or immediately after. As a licence holder, you should expect that when you purchase ammunition you'll need to assist the dealer or ammunition seller with information required for the online Dealer Transactions form, for example, your firearms licence number.



2. The first time you buy ammunition, you'll need to register all your firearms – if you have not done so already

After 24 June 2025, licence holders will have an activating circumstance when they purchase ammunition from a firearms dealer or ammunition seller – if they haven't already had one. This means you will need to register all the firearms and arms items in your possession within 30 days of purchasing ammunition, if you haven't already registered your firearms. Once you have entered your details into the Firearms Registry, you must keep your information up to date when buying or selling arms items.



Activating circumstance follow-up

On the day an activating circumstance occurs, the licence holder is sent an email reminding them of their obligations and what they need to do to remain compliant. If the licence holder doesn't take any action, we follow-up with further reminders 16 and 32 days after the activating event.

If the licence holder has failed to take action by day 33, we consider the activating circumstance as overdue, and initiate a series of steps to encourage licence holders to meet their obligations:

- » Between 33 – 44 days, we contact the licence holder by either phone or letter
- » Between 45 – 49 days, we contact the licence holder again
- » Between 60 – 74 days, if no action has been taken, we issue an improvement notice via email or letter. This gives the licence holder 16 days to comply
- » After 75 days, if the licence holder has still not complied, we escalate our interventions to include consideration of suspension or revocation of the individual's licence, as by this stage they have left us with no option but to enforce compliance with the law.

Of the 2,126 circumstances still pending resolution, 277 are more than 75 days. This is 0.4% of all activating circumstances during 2024/25 FY.



A range of regulatory tools

We always seek to 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, our interventions may extend no further than engaging with the licence holder.

Where we assess there is a need to mitigate a particular safety risk, we may often 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 consider directing licence holders to achieve compliance with more focused forms of encouragement, such as warning letters and improvement notices.

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 licence holder demonstrates a persistent pattern of non-compliance, we enforce compliance by suspending and revoking a firearms licence.

Regulatory Tools

Warning letters

We issue warning letters when the behaviour of a licence holder reaches a point that causes us to review whether they are still fit and proper to possess firearms and airguns. Warning letters are designed to encourage licence holders to do the right thing before reaching the point at which we will act to suspend pending revocation of their licence.

During the 2024/25 FY, we have issued 307 warning letters. The primary reasons were:

- » 227 as a result of an investigation
- » 74 considering revocation and temporary suspension

Improvement Notices

Improvement notices are issued to a licence holder if we reasonably believe they are failing, have failed, or are likely to fail to comply with a provision or provisions in the Act, or conditions on a licence, an endorsement, or permit.

The notice will state the applicable provision(s) within the Act or regulations, or condition(s) the licence holder is failing, has failed, or is likely to fail to comply with and the action required to bring them back into compliance, or prevent non-compliance from occurring. The notice will clearly state a date by which the licence holder is required to remedy the failure or take action to prevent the failure from occurring.

Since 1 July 2024, we have issued 1509 improvement notices. The two main reasons for issuing were:

- » 1429 for Registry non-compliance
- » 50 for not notifying a change of address

Regulatory Tools continue

Prescribed Conditions

We may impose prescribed conditions on a licence, endorsement or permit for a short period of time if we think that doing so will enable a licencing holder to remain compliant by mitigating an identified risk or addressing a specific situation.

Prescribed conditions may be used in situations such as addressing access concerns about a person who would not meet the threshold for fit and proper, but lives with a firearm licence holder or applicant. Prescribed conditions are not used to circumvent or override the current provisions 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.

This year we imposed prescribed conditions on 850 licence holders. The prescribed conditions generally related to access by a person who is not fit and proper, or who does not hold a firearms licence. It should be noted that licence holders can be subject to multiple conditions.

Prescribed conditions issued:

- » 775 relating to access to firearms or arms items
- » 755 requirement to notify Police
- » 719 relating to the need for an alternative storage location
- » 691 relating to the storage location itself
- » 543 relating to the duration of the conditions

Suspension of a firearms licence

Sometimes we intervene to suspend a licence if changes in a licence holder's behaviour or circumstances mean their fit and proper status could be jeopardised. Suspending a licence gives us time to establish the facts of the case before reaching a decision about any further interventions.

For the period of the investigation the licence holder is unlicensed, which means their firearms and licence card are removed from their possession.

The main reasons we suspend licences are for involvement in criminal offences; regulatory non-compliance; physical or mental illness; alcohol or drug use; family harm or a protection order, and gang affiliation.

This year we suspended 1,142 firearms licences – 1,138 individual licences and four dealer's licences. This represents a decrease of 226 from the previous year.



“Holding a firearms licence is a privilege reserved for those who follow the law. The vast majority of licence holders are law abiding who have no trouble meeting their responsibilities. For a criminal few, offending will become a lot harder over time with the new Firearms Registry. When fully rolled out it will help flag unusual patterns of firearms purchasing in real time and help to reduce the flow of lawfully held firearms to the illegal market.”

Firearms Safety Authority,
Executive Director Angela Brazier

Revocation of a firearms licence

If we decide that the risk posed to people or public safety by a licence holder is unacceptably high and cannot be satisfactorily remedied or mitigated, we will act to revoke their firearms licence.

A licence holder subject to the revocation of their firearms licence cannot reapply for a licence for a period of five years.

This year 707 firearms licences were revoked. This is a significant decrease on the last three years, when an average of 900 licences were revoked each year.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Individual	901	895	908	706
Dealer	2	6	3	1

The drivers behind fewer revocations

The decrease in the total revocations should not be interpreted as reflecting any fall-off in the expectations of behavioural standards from licence holders.

We attribute the decrease to several factors:

- » the establishment of our Registry and Compliance teams to engage and educate licence holders, coupled with a higher level of familiarity with the new firearms regime among the firearms community. For example, we've heard that licence holders are more aware of the impact of drinking and driving on their suitability to hold a firearms licence
- » the time we are committing to engaging in-person with the community to make licence holders more aware of their obligations
- » a more nuanced approach to mental health, enabling licence holders to make use of an early surrender process
- » the support offered to licence holders by providing an information sheet with the Notice of Temporary Suspension, which has prompted an increase in the number of submissions made by licence holders. These submissions allow us to develop a fuller understanding of a licence holder's circumstances on which to base our decision.

We cannot yet say whether the number of revocations this year represents a 'new normal'. As our understanding of the factors leading to revocation decisions continues to develop, we will adapt our engagement, education and compliance activities to ensure licence holders continue to be appropriately supported to succeed with meeting their obligations.

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 163 licence holders sought a review, with the following outcomes:

- » 112 revocations decisions were upheld
- » 13 cases were deemed to have no right of review
- » 4 cases the request for review was withdrawn
- » 3 cases the firearm's licence was surrendered
- » 5 cases where the decision was overturned but conditions were applied
- » 7 cases where the decision was overturned but a warning issued
- » 18 cases where the revocation decision was overturned with no further action taken.

If the individual is not satisfied by the outcome of the review, they have the option to appeal the decision in the District Court.

Last year, 43 appeal cases were heard at the District Court, with the following outcomes:

- » 14 cases the revocation decision was upheld
- » 11 cases revocation decision was upheld – appeal discontinued
- » 1 case where revocation decision was upheld – appeal withdrawn
- » 11 cases where the revocation decision was overturned
- » 6 cases the revocation decision was overturned and we did not oppose.

It should be noted that in those cases where a decision to overturn a revocation was made, it does not mean our original decision-making process was incorrect. This is because in the Appeal Court cases are heard “de novo”, which means they are heard without considering any previous decisions made in connection with the licence review process. It should be noted that as there is a time lag between the original revocation decision and an appeal being heard, a licence holder's circumstances relevant to our original revocation decision may have changed. The outcome of appeals may not relate to revocations in the year under review.

Expiry and surrender

Pre firearm licence expiry actions

Contacting licence holders in the period before their licence expires represents a significant investment in our time and resources. But we think it is a valuable investment.

From a safety perspective we want to ensure all legitimately held firearms are under the control of a licence holder, so if an individual decides not to renew their licence, we want to be certain they understand their obligations to dispose of or transfer their firearms to another licence holder.

We also want to make sure licence holders understand the benefits of renewing their licence rather than letting it lapse. For example, it is cheaper and less time consuming to renew a licence, than it is to apply for a new licence later on.

To give the licence holder time to decide on the option that best suits them, we send an initial email around four months prior to their licence expiry date, then follow this up with a further text or email between two to four weeks prior to expiry. Contacting licence holders by phone or email are our main communication channels, which is why it's important for licence holders to keep their contact information up to date.

We are considering options to automate parts of this contact activity. This will help ensure we maintain this service, while freeing capacity for our people to focus on other areas of risk.

What we do after a firearms licence expires

When a firearms licence expires, we get in touch with the individual to ensure they either renew their licence or dispose of their firearms.

This process is necessary because the majority of expiring or expired licence holders do not yet have their arms items in the Firearms Registry and we have no certainty as to the quantity and type of firearms they hold.

As the Registry becomes increasingly populated, we will be able to take a more risk-based approach to addressing expired licences, with priority given to holdings that would pose the highest risk to public safety if they were to enter the grey or black markets.

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

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Standard
108 days	33 days	9 days	60 days

Surrendering of licences and endorsements

This year 2414 licences were surrendered and 347 distinct endorsements across 283 licences were surrendered.

Surrender of endorsements during the 2024/25 financial year

Endorsement group	Total surrendered
Target Pistol	185
Collector	52
Pest Control	32
Dealer - endorsements	29
Dealer - employee	17
Theatrical	13
Museum	12
Ammunition Seller	6
Memento/Heirloom	1

How to surrender or dispose of unwanted firearms

Parliament has recognised the need for discretion when somebody proactively comes forward to Police to surrender an illegally held firearm.

There is an express provision in the Arms Act that gives Police the discretion not to prosecute when a firearm is proactively handed in by someone who is not lawfully able to possess it.

Section 59B of the Arms Act encourages people to hand in firearms they are not lawfully entitled to possess. It recognises that it is in the public interest to reduce the number of illegally held firearms.

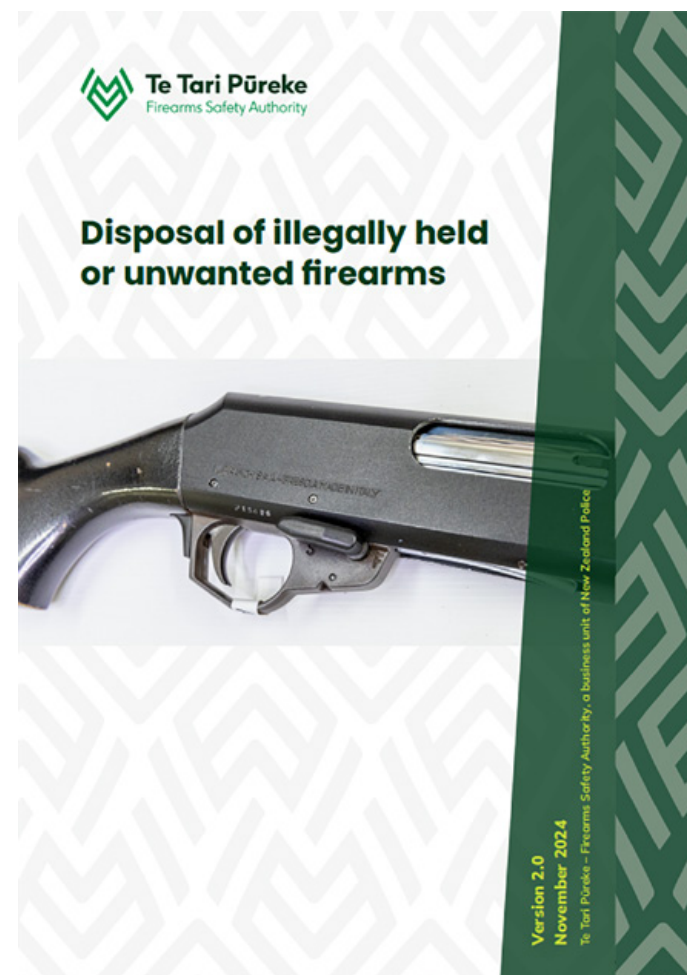
This Police discretion not to prosecute occurs in cases where:

- » the offence is considered to be one of possession only; and
- » there is no public interest in proceeding with the prosecution.

Each situation will be considered on its own facts and discretion will be exercised accordingly. Where a prosecution is not in the public interest Police will arrange disposal of the item.

Public interest considerations in favour of prosecution may include, but are not limited to, circumstances in which the person handing in the firearm has previous convictions or been engaged in other criminal conduct; been subject to a court order; where the firearm has been stolen, or where there was premeditation behind the unlawful possession.

In the 24/25 FY year we published [guidance on our website](#) about how to dispose of unwanted firearms. We promoted the guidance through social media and other channels, and used third party organisations to reach audiences that wouldn't be familiar with our website. These included the Funeral Directors Association, Public Trust, Perpetual Guardian, community law centres, and those who help to draw up wills, enduring powers of attorney or deal with a deceased estate.





» 3 Supporting regulated parties
to succeed

Clubs and ranges

In March 2025, the new Clubs and Ranges Amendment Bill was passed, with the new regulations following in May.

To support clubs and range operators through this period of change we established a dedicated team to ensure there was a single point of contact operators could turn to be sure they were doing the right thing.

Based on the responses received, this initiative was widely welcomed and indicative of the quality of the relationships we have established with clubs and ranges over the last three years.

Shooting clubs

There are 400 approved shooting clubs in Aotearoa New Zealand, consisting of 90 pistol clubs and 310 non-pistol clubs.

There are two compliance measures in this area that form part of our annual reporting to government:

The first is that we investigate target pistol endorsement holders who fail to attend the minimum of 12 clubs shoots per year. As with the previous year, we met the performance standard.

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

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Standard
93%	100%	100%	100%

The second, is that we inspect pistol ranges for compliance with the Arms Act. This year we improved on our service performance from the last two years and achieved the performance standard.

Percentage of pistol ranges inspected for compliance with the Arms Act

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Standard
99%	98%	100%	100%

On 29 June, the Arms-shooting clubs, shoot ranges and other matters Amendment Act came into force. This changed the way we manage shooting ranges. Under the new legislation, we only inspect pistol shooting ranges upon:

- » application for a new shooting range certification
- » application for renewal of a shooting range certification
- » a change of circumstances that affect the range's safety

Because pistol shooting range certification will remain in force for five years, an annual measure for inspecting all pistol shooting ranges is no longer appropriate. In future this measurement will be removed from reporting.

Shooting ranges

Under the new legislation, whilst pistol ranges are now certified, non-pistol ranges need to meet certain criteria to be put on the roll, that is, to be enrolled.

There are currently 1,157 active shooting ranges, of which 424 have been certified and 733 are enrolled.

During the year we issued 17 improvement notices in the course of undertaking 414 pistol range inspections and 121 non-pistol range inspections. This is a reduction on the previous year, which reflects the hard work ranges have done to understand and meet the requirements over the last three years.

The 17 improvement notices were issued for:

- » 7 for deficient range structures such as the backstop/bullet catcher being below the required angle, sidewalls below required height, and incorrect materials used that could cause a ricochet.
- » 2 for target maintenance or hazards at target line.
- » 2 for shooting from outside the range template.
- » 6 for documentation not being available; for example, not displaying range certificates, range standing orders not being available, or no incident register at the range.

Supporting licence holders to succeed

To support compliance, we invest resources to engage with licence holders, educating and encouraging them to meet their regulatory obligations.

Because we believe the maintenance of a safe firearm 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.

Through actively engaging with a wide range of stakeholders from both the firearms and non-firearms community, we're building our understanding of the issues facing people so we can design our interventions in ways that best meet our desired outcomes.

This does not mean that it will always be us who needs to intervene. Sometimes the message is better coming from others within the firearms system. That's why we regularly partner with organisations to share safety messaging, working alongside them where we can, and using our channels and networks to promote the great work they do.

Our community engagement focus

We acknowledge it will take time to build high levels of trust and confidence throughout the firearms community.

We will achieve this through a focused engagement approach centred around three broad and long-term activities:

- » Provision of Firearm Safety Training
- » Education and guidance about licence holder obligations
- » Building relationships that support safety and compliance outcomes

We'll discuss each of these in turn.



Firearm Safety Training

As outlined in the 'How to obtain a firearms licence' section, the Firearm Safety Course consists of two components: a theory test and a practical training session. Applicants need to successfully demonstrate their understanding of the 7 Rules of Firearms Safety throughout the course in order to be declared competent.

This year, 6,815 individuals attended and passed a firearm safety course through either attending:

- » a standard firearms safety training course, managed by the Mountain Safety Council – 525 courses to 6439 individuals
- » a Whakatūpatō course, which is a training programme designed for, and delivered in, rural and isolated communities – 18 courses to 297 individuals
- » a secondary schools course – piloted in five schools and institutions, which were attended by a total of 79 students

This year we undertook a review to determine how the future of firearms safety courses and outreach programmes should be delivered. We sought feedback from the firearms community and others as we want to ensure that we're keeping up with the evolving needs of firearm users and the wider community.

As a result of this review, we made the decision to bring the delivery of all firearms safety training in-house. As the regulator, we are well placed to develop and modernise the training. We do not see this as a permanent solution. Our goal is to modernise the course by ensuring training is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the first-time applicants. We will then seek to partner with a network of community-based organisations as approved training providers. Once we have established this training network, we will collectively be able to deliver firearms safety education even further into New Zealand communities.

This change was no reflection on the Mountain Safety Council who had been our safety training provider. MSC had been instrumental in driving positive changes to the structure of public firearms safety training, delivering a nationally consistent and professional course. We could not have evolved the training to where it is without working alongside them as a trusted partner and we remain grateful for their contribution over the years.

What these changes will deliver

Initially the major change will be visible in the course length and student to instructor ratio.

Feedback from participants and MSC instructors was that the outcomes we want from the course would benefit from a lower instructor to participant ratio to enable more one-on-one time. On average, we will reduce the course ratio from 1:15 to 1:10. We are also extending the course duration, to allow for more time on practical handling for course participants.

We are also enhancing the pre and post-training e-learning available to participants. Pre-course learning improvements are essential to ensure licence applicants are prepared for their firearms safety test. Post-course learning improvements will ensure safe firearms habits are embedded and licence holders' obligations are well understood.

Longer-term we will explore whether it is possible to incorporate live firing into the firearms safety course.

Whakatūpato courses – reaching out to isolated communities

We work closely with our community partners and iwi to deliver firearms safety training and skills through our Whakatūpato courses. These courses are designed and delivered to meet the specific needs of those in rural or isolated communities. Many of the Whakatūpato course attendees go on to obtain their firearms licence.

Whakatūpato is facilitated by New Zealand Police Māori Responsiveness Managers, Iwi Liaison Officers, and our local Te Tari Pūreke team members.

In the year ahead we are aiming to double the number of Whakatūpato courses delivered, as we see this as a key activity to supporting rural communities where the use of firearms is a critical activity whether it be for farming, pest control, or kai collection.

Secondary schools – connecting with younger people

Some secondary schools have firearms sports and activities in their curriculum already, for example, clay target shooting. The pilot programme we have tested brings nationally standardised safety training to these students, ensuring they start their sport with a strong safety foundation.

This year we piloted the delivery of firearms safety courses at four secondary schools and community organisations: Te Kura o Te Wainui-ā-Rua; Feilding High School; Wairarapa College; Palmerston North Boys High School; and Hawkes Bay Clay Target Club.

Feedback from the schools and the students attending have been very positive:

- » “Everything about the course reinforces gun safety as well as teaching me new things.”
- » “Loved the hands-on practical activities. Sharing personal experiences to engage us and complement the learning. Great style of teaching.”
- » “Very informative and interesting. Practical’s were very useful for learning.”

Our next steps are to share our report on the pilot with firearms community groups, listen to their feedback and establish the next steps, with an aim of delivering firearms safety training to more participating secondary schools in 2025/2026 and beyond.



Assisting licence holders with clear guidance

Our goal is to help licence holders remain safe by providing clarity about what they're required to do.

To achieve this, we take a collaborative approach to developing guidance that supports licence holders to achieve compliance with the law. Here are two examples of how we worked with different regulated parties to support their success.

Guidance for auctions

To help people holding firearms auctions, we began by engaging with four dealers that run auctions. The objective was to scope out what information is needed in a guidance document. During this process the dealers provided valuable insights into their processes and the complexities of selling large numbers of arms items over a short period.

We then attended auctions and observed what was happening. With this information we drafted a guidance document and had it reviewed by two auction conveners. We listened to their feedback and are making amendments where appropriate. The guidance will be released in the 2025/26 financial year.

Guidance for pistol target shooting

The Arms Amendment Regulations 2022 introduced several new regulations regarding the operation and conduct of pistol target shooting clubs, including the training of new members.

Pistol New Zealand (PNZ) initially approached us about the addition of a small number of obligation-related questions to the probationary member examination. We worked with them to develop a library of obligation questions that helped us identify the critical points for successfully implementing the training-related changes.

We then expanded our engagement to include independent pistol clubs and held sessions with stakeholders to understand the distinction between training in pistol shooting obligations that apply everyday, and those that occur from time to time.

Following that, we then undertook a series of drafting and review steps with these stakeholders. With a solid base we developed and refined a workbook as an online resource that can be easily downloaded, ensuring every club and their members can access the latest version.

Next, we worked with stakeholders around an implementation plan to ensure everyone was aware of the 'new obligations' training material. The feedback we've received is demonstrating a successful implementation with:

- » all probationary members enrolled since 1 March 2025 have completed the workbook and successfully passed their examination
- » pistol clubs reporting that the workbook is very useful resource

Other users

We also provided guidance in the following areas:

- » Storage and transportation of firearms
- » Returned and Services Association storage and compliance
- » Museums
- » Pistol Target Shooting Obligations
- » Lifestyle block owners
- » Travelling/flying with firearms

You can find our resources here: [Posters, flyers and other resources](#)



» 4 Working with other agencies

Building relationships that support safety and compliance outcomes

The firearm system within Aotearoa New Zealand is complex and we know we cannot achieve successful outcomes alone. We understand that we do not work in isolation and take a system level view to understanding what is happening and why. This is an important step, as it enables us to understand who's best placed to contribute to achieving our desired outcomes.

Central to this approach are the key engagements we administer:

- » the **Firearms Community Advisory Group (FCAF)**, which is made-up of firearm licence holders and other regulated parties that hold a variety of roles within the regulatory regime, such as the Department of Conservation, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, and Pistol NZ
- » the **Arms Engagement Group (AEG)**, which is made-up of people from the non-firearms community, for example the Royal College of General Practitioners and Gun Control NZ
- » the **Māori Firearms Forum (MFF)**, members are from a wide range of professions and bring a wealth of experience – from iwi and hapū through to academia and hunters. All members are active in their communities
- » the **Dealer Reference Group (DRG)**, which represent the different types of firearm dealers, including retailers, importers, gunsmiths, auctioneers and gun show operators

These forums enable us to have two-way communication with a variety of interested parties who often have diverse perspectives. The meetings are opportunities for participants to raise issues they are hearing, or to listen and provide feedback and guidance on interventions we're planning to undertake. As an example, this year we involved these groups in the design of our safety approach for the Roar and Duck Season safety campaigns, and the firearm safety future engagement and education pathway.

Māori Firearms Forum providing fresh insights

The forum has supported and continues to provide subject matter expertise to Te Tari Pūreke regarding firearms safety in Māori communities. Some of the highlights for this year include:

- » Engagement and education for Māori communities was the big topic for discussion at the inaugural hui in 2024. This has resulted in the delivery of Whakatūpato courses catered to achieve the outputs and outcomes discussed at the hui. This work will grow as we continue to work alongside our members and their communities to ensure we reach firearms safety outcomes for their community.
- » Members were involved in the Ministry of Justice's Arms Act Rewrite community engagement process. This enabled our members to share a te ao māori perspective on the rewrite with considerations given to tikanga and kawa.
- » We have members providing subject matter expertise regarding firearms terminology in te reo māori – ensuring our material is consistent with an already widely used te reo māori speaking community.

Stakeholders are telling us they want more on health and firearms

The health of firearms licence holders continues to be a key focus for us. A new pamphlet 'Health and Firearms' was created to support firearms licence holders, their whanau and friends with key messages about what to do if you have concerns about their own or someone else's mental health. It is important to be in the right headspace to possess and use firearms. We encourage firearms licence holders to seek help from a health practitioner if needed to keep themselves and others safe. This new resource is available here: [Health and Firearms](#).

We continued our relationship with Mental Hunts, a charity helping firearm owners seek mental health support, and created short-form FAQ videos to provide information to licence holders. These resources you can view here: [Mental Hunts videos](#).

Additionally, we continue to work with health institutions and their staff, running presentations for their teams and members, following up with articles in specialist health magazines and their publications.

Looking ahead on how the firearms regime could better support licence holders that may be experiencing a mental health event, we included a suggestion in our submission on the rewrite of the Arms Act.

We asked law-makers to consider giving us the ability to increase the period of temporary suspension from three to twelve months, when the only concern is health related. This would provide more time for Te Tari Pūreke to receive appropriate or comprehensive medical reports; or enable mitigations to be undertaken to address a condition. Without the relevant information to assess a health condition, as the regulator we may have no option but to revoke the individual's licence, which can impact on how and when that individual can re-apply for a new licence – there is a five-year standdown period after a revocation.

Working with the Department of Corrections

This year we worked with the Department of Corrections to ensure their psychology staff understood the implications of an individual's incarceration on their ability to obtain a firearm licence or to use firearms in the future. This work better enables Corrections staff to outline these settings with individuals and appropriately manage their expectations.

Guided hunting

In 2019 the New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association estimated that the guiding industry was bringing in over \$100 million in revenue through trades such as outfitters, guides and taxidermists. The sector was employing an estimated 500 people.

To support this industry, we have developed bespoke guidance for visiting hunters and are investigating options for improving the licensing process for visitors.

Recreational hunters

For recreational hunters, we engaged in-person at the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association HUNTS training seminars and the Sika Show. We also made information relating to hunting access and unlawful hunting and shooting on lifestyle blocks and small land holdings available on our website.

Finally, we are in the process of scoping research to identify potential causes of hunting accidents. This would enable us to target potential interventions with our partners to reduce harm from tragic but often preventable events.



Working with other agencies



This section describes how we work with other government agencies to reduce the scope for the unlawful use and possession of firearms.

Working with the wider 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 licenses is gathered and held by Police as part of its core business. Much of this is highly sensitive 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 demonstrates a pattern suggesting a risk of firearm harm.
- » Timely and accurate information sharing has a direct impact on the risk to the 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 individual to an unlawful or unauthorised individual. This could be a licence holder lending out their firearm to enable someone to go hunting, through to an individual purchasing firearms on behalf of someone who is not able or not prepared to buy it themselves – this is called straw-purchasing.

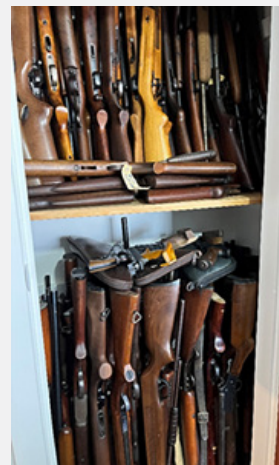
Registry non-compliance highlights wider firearms offending

One of the country's largest firearms seizures highlighted the value of both the Registry and the real-time sharing of information between the Authority and frontline Police.

Based on information-sharing between Police investigators and the Authority, we identified a licence holder in Gore who had purchased multiple firearms since 2023 but had failed to register them all. It enabled us to quickly suspend his licence for failing to comply with legal obligations. Once his licence was suspended, Police rapidly responded to remove a sizeable number of unlawfully held firearms in June 2025.

A total of 478 firearms were seized, including five pistols and others that may be prohibited firearms, which the man was not licensed to possess. Significant quantities of ammunition and firearm parts were also recovered. Only six of the 478 firearms were registered, and while some were locked in safes, many were unsecured.

"It's shocking to see so many firearms unsecured... the scale of it is concerning." It was the largest seizure of firearms ever seen in the Southern District "by far" said Southland Area Commander Inspector Mike Bowman. The investigation is proceeding. The seized firearms are currently in secure Police storage.



Firearms Registry – helping make our families and all New Zealanders safer

This year the Ministry of Justice undertook a review of the Firearms Registry. In summary their main findings were:

- » the Firearms Registry should continue as planned
- » early indications show the Registry contributes to public safety
- » diversion of firearms to the black market is a threat to public safety and the Registry mitigates that risk
- » the Registry has been cost-effective
- » the Registry meets government standards for security of personal information
- » Registry requirements for licence holders are necessary, appropriate and streamlined

We are pleased that the external review has found the Registry helps protect the public from harm and that it should continue. The Registry is an essential part of a bigger system to deal with firearms harm in our communities. It is designed to mitigate the risks of firearms falling into the wrong hands through greater transparency and accountability. When fully populated the Registry will provide a view of all legally held firearms and arms items held in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This will mean 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.

The Registry is increasing the level of accountability for individuals that have the privilege to possess and use firearms. Licence holders need to correctly secure their firearms and report incidents related to stolen firearms.

As illustrated in the case above, when firearms are recovered by Police, they can use information held within the Registry, such as the make and model, and calibre to track ownership of the firearm.

Increasing the accountability associated with holding a firearms licence is incredibly important for ensuring the safety of our communities. For example, two unlicensed teenagers in Cheviot were arrested with charges relating to the unlawful possession of firearms. Of the six firearms recovered, three were immediately identified through the Registry as being owned by different licence holders in different parts of New Zealand.

Registry uptake

By 30 June 2025, 92,199 licence holders, which is 40% of all active licence holders, have either registered their firearms or firearms parts, or declared they had no arms items in the Registry.

Of those licence holders that have registered, 28,323 (30%) did so prior to having an activating event, while the remainder did so after receiving an activating event. We are on target to have all legally owned firearms registered by August 2028.

232,322 Arms Items registered

457,546 firearms

Non-prohibited	Not Yet Classified	Pistol	Prohibited	Restricted
420,613	9	29,937	2849	4138

14,497 firearm parts

Non-prohibited	Not Yet Classified	Pistol	Prohibited	Restricted
2182	0	455	11,860	0

Looking to the year ahead

We have identified the following focus areas for the 2025/26 financial year.

1. Better managing licence applications

We want to ensure safety outcomes while providing licence holders with timely licensing decisions. We will achieve this by continuing to take a risk-based approach with applications to ensure the amount of effort is proportional to the level of complexity each application entails. To achieve this, we've set a target of processing 21,000 applications per year. This is a decrease from the number we processed this year. By decreasing the number, we can smooth the long-term demand for licences, which will enable us to be a more efficient regulator.

2. Delivering firearm safety education

We want to ensure first-time licence holders can safely handle firearms and understand their compliance obligations, so we are getting them off on the right foot by delivering a high-quality firearms safety course.

3. Enhancing our monitoring to detect non-compliance

As an effective regulator we need to understand when and why non-compliance is occurring. For types of non-compliance that pose the greatest risks to personal or public safety, we need to ensure that our monitoring, detection and response are timely and proportional to the risk. To achieve this, we'll be enhancing our triage function to ensure the information we receive is appropriately prioritised and acted on.

4. Supporting implementation of changes to the Arms Act

Our final focus area is to support the Government's Arms Act Reform by preparing and implementing any changes to the Arms Act. Central to this will be making licence holders and the wider public aware of the changes and how best to comply with them.

Courts confirm 3D-printed firearms will be met with a serious response

Judges in the District and High Courts have confirmed the importance of the Firearms Registry during sentencing of offenders for 3D-manufacture of firearms during the past year.

In March 2025 at the Dunedin High Court, Justice Eaton dismissed an appeal by a 31-year-old Oamaru man who had been sentenced to 26 months imprisonment for illegal manufacture and unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition. Police had earlier seized a 3D-printed pistol loaded with live rounds, 178 firearm parts made by a 3D-printer, and a 3D printer from his sleepout. Justice Eaton said: "Unlawfully manufactured firearms defeat the core objective of the Firearms Register, undermining the fundamental purpose of the legislation being to deter any unauthorised persons from engaging in the manufacture of a firearm and to ensure all firearms are registered and traceable by police."

In May 2025, at the Palmerston North District Court, Judge Krebs sentenced a Woodville man to 31 months imprisonment for illegal manufacture of 3D-printed firearms including pistols, unlawful possession of a standard rifle and ammunition, and possession of 1.4 kg of cannabis. Judge Krebs set a starting point for the 3D-printing offences at two and a half years imprisonment. He echoed Justice Eaton's comments that the introduction of the Firearms Registry "signalled Parliament's intent that a stern approach must be taken to those who knowingly manufacture firearms".





“What we all have in common is wanting our families and communities to be safe from firearms harm.”

Firearms Safety Authority,
Executive Director Angela Brazier

