

24 February 2025

IR-01-25-2187

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a) OIA

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 17 January 2025 in relation to firearms licence holder information in Northland.

I have answered each question below.

How people who are flagged for family violence in Northland currently own a gun license?

There are 516 active firearms licence¹ holders in the Northland District who have been identified as having involvement in family violence as at 27 January 2025.

It is important to note that this data includes only those who have 'Family Violence Involvement' alerts in the National Intelligence Application (NIA). Please be aware that 'family violence' alerts in NIA do not necessarily mean there has been any criminal offence, additionally, it is important to understand the licence holder may be involved in different ways – and therefore have been recorded in NIA - such as victim, witness, or offender. However, to provide a breakdown between 'victim, witness, offender' would require a manual search of all records on each person's NIA dossier, noting each may have multiple occurrences relating to family violence involvement. Therefore, this part is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

The 'Family Violence Involvement' alert remains in NIA for a prolonged period of time (sometimes indefinitely) as it assists future safety and crime prevention planning, and therefore, that aspect should be considered in regard to the number identified as having involvement in family violence above.

I refer you to Table 1 below that shows the number of active firearms licence holders in the Northland District with family violence alerts, broken down by licence type and total number as at 27 January 2025.

¹ 'Active licence holder' refers to those who are legally allowed to possess firearms due to holding a current firearms licence. This includes licences that have expired but the licence holder has applied to renew their licence before expiry. In these instances, these are treated as "current" until a final decision has been made. Non-active licence holders include licences that are revoked, suspended, cancelled, expired, or deceased.

Table 1: Number of Active Firearms Licence holders in the Northland District with family violence alerts broken down by Licence Type and Total Number as at 27 January 2025

Licence type ²	Licence holders' alerts for family violence
Individual	515
Dealer	1
Total³	516

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 27 January 2025

How many people were flagged for family violence in Northland and were denied a gun license as a result in the last 5 years?

While an applicant may have a family violence alert associated to them in NIA, (which could be as an offender, a victim, or a witness) this may not be the reason for a licence application refusal, and it would require a manual examination of each file to determine if family violence involvement had contributed to the decision to refuse the application therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

However, I can advise that a total of 59 people in the Northland District with a family violence involvement alert had a firearms licence refused, noting that the alert may not have contributed to the refusal, in the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024 (see Table 2).⁴

System changes⁵ in 2020 meant that this data breakdown is not available for the 2020 calendar year.⁶ Therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA the information requested is not held.

I refer you to Table 2 below that shows the number of firearms licence holders that also include a family violence alert⁷ in the Northland District, where the licence application has been refused, noting that the alert may not have contributed to the refusal (see above).

Table 2: Number of Refused Firearms Licences that included alerts for Family Violence Involvement, Northland District, broken down by year and total from 2021 to 2024

Refused licences with family violence involvement	Total
2020	Unavailable
2021	11
2022	21
2023	20
2024	7

² One person might have multiple licence types (A-Standard and Dealer) therefore it would appear across both categories.

³ Total is a distinct count of licence holders. Multiple family violence alerts might be associated to one licence holder however those will be counted as one for each licence holder.

⁴ The date of refusal is based on the 'Event Completed Date' in NIA; however, this may differ from the date the licence status is changed to 'Refused'.

⁵ When a firearms licence application is refused or revoked, a "firearms event" is reported and updated to a 'Refused' status in NIA. The "reasons" for refusing or revoking an application are only available when the "firearms event" is reported and updated in NIA, not when a "status change" is reported and updated in NIA. (from reporting and updating as "status change" only, to reporting and updating as a "firearms event")

⁶ Refusals is based on licence application events that have been recorded as 'Refused'.

⁷ Family violence involvement is based on current and historical 'Family Violence Involvement' alerts.

Total distinct count of ID⁸	59
---	-----------

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 27 January 2025

How many people had a gun license revoked in Northland, in the last five years, and what reason was it revoked? [reasons as stated in the Arms Act - e.g. family violence, mental or physical injury, alcohol or drug use, gang affiliation, violence, hatred or extremism]

A total of 243 firearms licence holders in the Northland District had a revocation event closed as 'revoked' regardless of whether there is a revocation reason applied⁹. When a licence holder undergoes a revocation, a revocation event is entered into NIA. Once a final decision has been made to revoke a licence, the licence status is changed to 'Revoked'. Once the licence holder is notified of the revocation, the revocation event is closed as 'Revoked'.¹⁰ System changes¹¹ implemented in 2020 provided alternative methods to capture this data, therefore a breakdown is not available for the 2020 calendar year and this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held.

I refer you to Table 3 below that shows the number of revoked licence holders broken down by year and total from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024.

Table 3: Number of Revoked Firearms Licence Holders, Northland District, broken down by year and total 2021 to 2024

Revoked licence holders¹²	Total
2020	Unavailable
2021	79
2022	58
2023	52
2024	55
Total distinct count of licence holder¹³	244

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 27 January 2025

Regarding the second part of your question, "what reason was it revoked," I refer you to Table 4 that shows the reasons the firearms licence was refused under each section in the Arms Act 1983 in the Northland District for the period 30 October 2023 to 31 December 2024.

⁸ 'Total distinct count of ID shows the count of unique licences with a family violence involvement alert refused across all years regardless of how many refusals an individual has been the subject of.

⁹ This data includes both Dealer and Individual (A-Standard) licence holders. Revoked is based on the revocation event that has an outcome of 'Revoked'. The date of revoked is based on the event completed date, although this date may differ from the date the licence status is changed to 'Revoked'. Location is based on licence address district.

¹⁰ This licence status change and revocation notification generally occur on the same day however there are some situations where a licence holder may have to be notified in person and therefore the date the event is closed may occur after the licence status is changed.

¹¹ 'When a firearms licence application is refused or revoked, a "firearms event" is reported and updated to a 'Refused' status in NIA. The reasons for refusing or revoking an application are only available when the "firearms event" is reported and updated, not when it is reported and updated as a "status change" in NIA. System changes in 2020 (from reporting and updating as "status change" only, to reporting and updating as a "firearms event") meant that this data breakdown is not available for the 2020 calendar year

¹² 'Licence holders' include both Dealer and Individual (A-Standard). Date is based on licence application events that have been resulted as 'Revoked'. The date of revocation is based on the event completed date although this date may differ from the date the licence status is changed to revoked.

¹³ 'Total distinct count of licence holder' shows the count of unique licences across all years regardless of how many revocations an individual has had.

Note that an additional field was created in NIA on 30 October 2023 to enable the recording and subsequent reporting of the specific section of the Arms Act 1983 outlining the reason for revocation. Therefore, as at 27 January 2025, 64 of the 243 revoked licences had a reason under the Arms Act applied. The part of your request for this information relating covering the period 2020 to October 2023 is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held.

This reason field can only be applied to individual revocation events created in NIA rather than directly against the licence. There are 25 possible revocation reasons available, and each reason relates specifically to a section of the Arms Act 1983. Multiple reasons can be selected for each revocation when required.

Table 4¹⁴: Sections under the Arms Act 1983 for Firearms Licence Revocations in Northland District broken down by sections, years and number revoked per section, from 30 October 2023, 2024

Section of Arms Act 1983 as reason for licence revocation	2023	2024	Total
22H(b): Disqualifying - Protection orders	0	2	2
24A(1)(a): if a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence in New Zealand or overseas that is punishable by a term of imprisonment	6	23	29
24A(1)(b): if a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence under the Arms Act 1983	0	7	7
24A(1)(d)(ii): if a person has, or has had at any time, a temporary protection order made against them under section 14 of the Domestic Violence Act 1995, they may be deemed to be not a fit and proper person	0	1	1
24A(1)(e): if a person has inflicted, or is inflicting, family violence against another person and that other person has grounds under the Family Violence Act 2018 to apply for a protection order in respect of that violence	3	7	10
24A(1)(g): if a person has engaged in any conduct involving non-compliance with any requirements of (i) this Act; or (ii) any regulations made under this Act; or (iii) any conditions to which a permit, licence, or endorsement previously issued	4	18	22

¹⁴ Table 4 includes only revocation events closed as 'revoked' where a revocation reason has been selected and the event outcome was changed to 'Revoked'. As the data field was only created in NIA on 30 October 2023, we are not able to provide revocation reasons prior to this date.

24A(1)(g) - Registry: if a person has engaged in any conduct involving non-compliance with any requirements of (i) this Act; or (ii) any regulations made under this Act; or (iii) any conditions to which a permit, licence, or endorsement previously issued	0	1	1
24A(1)(h): if a person shows, or has recently shown, symptoms of a mental or physical illness or injury that may adversely affect their ability to safely possess firearms	1	17	18
24A(1)(i): if a person abuses alcohol, or is dependent on alcohol, to an extent that affects detrimentally their judgement or behaviour	3	7	10
24A(1)(j): if a person uses drugs (illegal or legal) in a way that affects detrimentally their judgement or behaviour	1	0	1
24A(1)(k): if a person is a member of, or has close affiliations with, a gang or an organised criminal group	1	0	1
24A(2)(c): In determining whether a person is a fit and proper person to be in possession of a firearm or an airgun, the member of the Police may take into account any other relevant matters the member of the Police considers appropriate	6	19	25
Sum ¹⁵	25	102	127
Total distinct count of people ¹⁶	9	55	64

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA) retrieved 27 January 2025.

How many people had a gun licence denied in Northland, in the last five years, and what reason it was denied? [organised by reasons as stated in the Arms Act - e.g. family violence, mental or physical injury, alcohol or drug use, gang affiliation, violence, hatred or extremism].

A total of 129 firearms licence applicants based in the Northland District had their application refused¹⁷ between 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024. System changes

¹⁵ Sum is based on the sum of all categories however an individual may appear across multiple categories as multiple reasons can be selected per revocation.

¹⁶ Total distinct count is an overall distinct count of people regardless of whether multiple reasons have been selected.

¹⁷ This data includes both Dealer and Individual (A-Standard) licence holders. Refusal is based on the licence application event that has an outcome of 'Refused'. The date of refusal is based on the event completed date,

implemented in 2020 provided alternative methods to capture this data, and so a breakdown is not available for the 2020 calendar year. Therefore, the part of your request relating to this information for 2020 is refused under section 18(g) as the information is not held.

I refer you to Table 5 below that shows the number of refused firearms licences in the Northland District broken down by year and total number refused from 2021 to 2024.

Table 5: Number of Refused Firearms Licences broken down by total and number refused in the Northland District 2021 to 2024

Refused licences	Total
2020	Unavailable
2021	18
2022	51
2023	40
2024	20
Total distinct count of licence holder¹⁸	129

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 27 January 2025

In relation to the second part of your question, “what reason it was denied,” the additional field was created in NIA on 30 October 2023 to enable the recording and subsequent reporting of the specific section of the Arms Act 1983 that the reason for a refusal related to. Therefore, the part of your request for information covering the period 2020 to October 2023 is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held.

There are 23 possible refusal reasons available, and each reason relates specifically to a section of the Arms Act 1983. Multiple reasons can be selected per refusal. As this is a new process, there may be times where a reason is not applied and therefore the total count is not indicative of all refusals only those that had a refusal reason applied. This does not include endorsement refusals.

Note that the reason field can only be applied to individual refusal events created in NIA rather than directly against the licence.

I refer you to Table 6 below that shows the number of firearms licence applications refused, broken down by section under the Arms Act 1983, explanation summary, and year, Northland District, November 2023 to December 2024.

Table 6: Number of Refused Firearms Licence Applications broken down by section under the Arms Act 1983, explanation and year, Northland District, October 2023 to December 2024

Section of Act reason and explanation	2023	2024	Total
22H(a): Disqualifying offences	1	1	2
22H(b): Disqualifying - Protection orders	0	3	3
24(2): Access is reasonably likely to be obtained by a person whose firearms licence has been revoked, is not fit and proper or is disqualified from holding a firearms licence	1	0	1
24A(1)(a): if a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence in New Zealand or overseas that is punishable by a term of imprisonment	3	2	5
24A(1)(b): if a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence under the Arms Act 1983	1	1	2

although this date may differ from the date the licence status is changed to 'Refused'. Location is based on licence address district.

¹⁸“Total distinct count of licence holder” shows the count of unique licences across all years regardless of how many refusals an individual has had.

24A(1)(d)(i): if a person has, or has had at any time, a temporary protection order made against them under section 79 of the Family Violence Act 2018	1	1	2
24A(1)(e): if a person has inflicted, or is inflicting, family violence against another person and that other person has grounds under the Family Violence Act 2018 to apply for a protection order in respect of that violence	1	0	1
24A(1)(g): if a person has engaged in any conduct involving non-compliance with any requirements of (i) this Act; or (ii) any regulations made under this Act; or (iii) any conditions to which a permit, licence, or endorsement previously issued	4	6	10
24A(1)(g) - Registry: if a person has engaged in any conduct involving non-compliance with any requirements of (i) this Act; or (ii) any regulations made under this Act; or (iii) any conditions to which a permit, licence, or endorsement previously issued	0	1	1
24A(1)(h): if a person shows, or has recently shown, symptoms of a mental or physical illness or injury that may adversely affect their ability to safely possess firearms	0	1	1
24A(1)(j): if a person uses drugs (illegal or legal) in a way that affects detrimentally their judgement or behaviour	1	0	1
24A(2)(c): In determining whether a person is a fit and proper person to be in possession of a firearm or an airgun, the member of the Police may take into account any other relevant matters the member of the Police considers appropriate	2	3	5
27(2)(a): A commissioned officer of Police may, by written notice, revoke a firearms licence if, in the opinion of the officer, one of the situations listed applies	0	1	1
Reg 14: Every applicant for a firearms licence shall undergo a course of training which is designed to teach the applicant to handle firearms safely; and pass such tests as may be required to determine the applicant's ability to handle firearms safely	2	5	7
Sum¹⁹	17	25	42
Total distinct count of people²⁰	9	19	28

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 27 January 2025

By way of context, possessing and using a firearm is a privilege. The purpose of Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is to effectively regulate the legitimate possession and use of firearms to help make their use in Aotearoa the safest in the world. As firearms regulator, Te Tari Pūreke is obligated to consider each firearms licence holder as to whether they continue to be Fit and Proper²¹ to be in possession of a firearm and to seriously consider any potential risk posed to public safety.

Note Te Tari Pūreke receives a daily report (“Firearms Licence Review” report) which highlights every licence holder who has come to Police attention in the past 24 hours. This could be as a witness, victim, or an offender. On average, there are approximately 60 names nationally that appear on the list each day.

¹⁹ Sum is based on the sum of all categories however an individual may appear across multiple categories as multiple reasons can be selected per revocation.

²⁰ Total distinct count is an overall distinct count of people regardless of whether multiple reasons have been selected.

²¹https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS440359.html?search=sw_096be8ed81ec89e9_fit+and+proper_25_se&p=1&sr=6



If an event occurs that could affect a licence holder's Fit and Proper status, Te Tari Pūreke's Resolutions team will assess, on a case-by-case basis, if compliance or enforcement action is necessary under the Arms Act 1983. This can range from No Further Action (NFA) to improvement notices, warnings, suspensions or revocation (noting a licence holder subject to a revocation cannot reapply for a licence for five years).

An individual's firearms licence is often suspended while further investigation takes place. For the period of the investigation the licence holder is treated as being unlicensed, which means that any firearms are removed from their possession.

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

Please consider the data caveats and footnotes when considering this response.

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