



21 February 2025

IR-01-25-4435

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 5 February 2025 where you asked for information relating to “the National Firearms Database managed by the Firearms Safety Authority”.

I have answered each question below.

1. The total volume of data currently stored in the National Firearms Database in terabytes or another relevant measurement.

As of 31 January 2025 (the current reporting date), the total volume stored is 677GB.

2. The cost associated with storing this data, including any ongoing or projected expenses.

The cost associated with storing this data is covered under the overarching annual software licensing fee for the Arms information System (AIS) which includes MyFirearms. The licensing fee for the AIS is \$1,867,565 for this financial year.

3. The location and management of the database, including:

- o The provider(s) responsible for hosting or managing the storage.*
- o The services or infrastructure used (e.g., cloud providers, on-premises servers, or third-party data centres).*

In accordance with the Government’s ‘Cloud First’ policy, Te Tari Pūreke has chosen to use a cloud-hosted service over a traditional ICT system. AIS is hosted by Amazon Web Services (AWS) in Australia, in the Asia Pacific (Sydney) Region. Its data security and privacy requirements have been assessed against government standards for the use of cloud-hosted services.

AWS provide only the infrastructure, that is, the data centre/servers for Te Tari Pūreke which the systems are run on. However, the technology service provider, Objective Corporation Limited (OCL), who manages the Firearms Registry (the Registry) and MyFirearms, are based in New Zealand and Australia.

Te Tari Pūreke takes the protection of licence holders’ information very seriously and has invested significant resources to ensure all information is secure and protected. All personal information in the Registry is held and managed in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020.



All OCL employees who work on the Te Tari Pūreke account are Police vetted and strict guidelines are in place before data can be accessed by employees. No provider has unlimited access to any Police system, which includes the Registry and MyFirearms.

AIS houses the Registry and MyFirearms and has been through multiple security assessments by Government-approved independent security consultants. These assessments examined how the system was designed and implemented to ensure it complies with New Zealand Government security and privacy requirements, including the New Zealand Information Security Manual, Protective Security Requirements, and industry best practice.

AIS has been classified to recognise potential national security impacts of unauthorised release or access to information. It therefore requires strong protection to safeguard the information from unauthorised access. Accordingly, Te Tari Pūreke has implemented a range of robust security controls to help protect the confidentiality and integrity of stored information, including:

- strong data encryption of all stored information
- robust authentication (which includes two-factor authentication)
- limits in place on what data can be accessed by staff in different roles, and what can be accessed via MyFirearms
- records kept of all actions in the system (both by staff of Te Tari Pūreke and Police, and users of MyFirearms)
- processes in place to review records for suspicious or unusual activity.

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