

17 March 2025

IR-01-25-4452

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 6 February 2025 where you asked for information relating to firearms licence and endorsement holder's distribution by postcode nationally.

I have answered each question below.

*1. A breakdown of number of firearms licence holders by postcode*

To provide the number of firearms licence holders per postcode could potentially identify where concentrations of licence holders are, thereby putting them and non-firearms licence holders at greater risk for harm, for example, burglary. Therefore, the information you have requested is refused under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(c) prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; or
- 6(d) to endanger the safety of any person.

However, we can provide the summary data as of 11 February 2025 at which time there were 230,275 active Individual firearms licence holders and 426 active Dealer firearm licence holders. (Data contained in this response is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated).

I refer you to Table 1 below that shows an overview of the number of active licence holders broken down by those who have postcodes<sup>1</sup>, 'address not Geocoded' and 'Overseas address', nationally as of 11 February 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the postcode where the licence holder resides. There are some instances where the address is not correctly geocoded to an address, and these are shown as 'Not Geocoded'. Police still have the address of each individual, but the geographic coordinates do not map directly to a postcode. The 'Overseas' number includes any licences held by individuals who are currently overseas but maintain their New Zealand firearms licence.

**Table 1: Number of Active firearms licence holders and Active Dealer Firearms Licence holders broken down by Postal Code, Address not Geocoded and Overseas address, nationally as at 11 February 2025**

Postal Code Category	Active Individual Firearms Licence Count	Active Dealer Firearms Licence
Postal Code Available	228,168	411
Address Not Geocoded	1,365	15
Overseas Address	742	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>230,275</b>	<b>426</b>

Source: NIA, retrieved 11 February 2025.

Of the 230,701 active Individual and Dealer firearms licence holders, 228,168 Individual and 411 Dealer firearms licence holders have postal codes of the licence address available for extraction in NIA. These licence holders are spread across a total of 1,118 postal codes.

However, I can provide the number of firearms licence holders broken down by Police district as at 11 February 2025. I refer you to Table 2 below. (Please see Appendix 1 (attached) for a map of Police Districts).

**Table 2: Number of individual firearms licence holders broken down by Police District nationally as at 11 February 2025**

Police District	Number of Individual Firearms Licence holders
Northland	12,750
Waitemata	14,188
Auckland City	5,277
Counties Manukau	10,917
Waikato	21,467
Bay of Plenty	24,088
Central	25,441
Eastern	14,839
Wellington	15,039
Tasman	18,691
Canterbury	34,944
Southern	31,680

Note that a licence holder may have a physical overseas address along with a separate security address in New Zealand. The legislation does not prohibit a licence holder moving overseas during the life cycle of their firearms licence; however, they are required to inform Te Tari Pūreke of any change of address in accordance with section 34 (1) of the Arms Act 1983<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> 34 **Notification of change of address**

(1) A holder of a firearms licence who changes their address must, within 30 days after doing so, give written notice of the change to a member of the Police.

2. A breakdown of number firearms licence endorsements by endorsement type and postcode.

To provide the number of firearms licence endorsement holders per postcode could potentially identify where concentrations of licence holders are, including Restricted and Prohibited firearms collectors, thereby putting them and non-firearms licence holders at greater risk for harm, for example, burglary. Therefore, the information you have requested is refused under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(c) prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; or
- 6(d) to endanger the safety of any person.

However, I can provide summary data as of 11 February 2025, that shows there are 11,084 active endorsements held by 6,409 active Individual firearms licence holders (see **Table 3**), and 717 active endorsements<sup>3</sup> held by 218 active dealer firearm licences (see **Table 4**) as at 11 February 2025.

**Table 3: Number of Active Endorsements on Individual Firearms Licences broken down by Postal Code Available, Address not Geocoded, Overseas Address and sum, nationally as at 11 February 2025**

Endorsement Type	Postal Code Available	Address Not Geocoded	Overseas Address	Sum
'B' Pistol Club Member - Target Pistol	3,766	9	3	3,778
'C' Bona Fide Collector - Pistol/Restricted Weapon	2,882	7	9	2,898
'C' Memento/Heirloom - Pistol/Restricted Weapon	451	1	1	453
'C' Theatrical	121	0	1	122
'F' Pistol - Dealer Employee	42	0	0	42
'F' Prohibited Firearms - Dealer Employee	38	0	0	38
'F' Prohibited Magazines - Dealer Employee	37	0	0	37
'F' Restricted and Pistol - Dealer Employee	80	1	1	82
'F' Restricted Weapons - Dealer Employee	38	0	0	38
'L' Living History Member - Pistol/Restricted Weapon	21	0	0	21
'L' Living History Member - Prohibited Firearm	19	0	0	19
'L' Living History Member - Prohibited Magazine	20	0	0	20
'L' Living History Theatrical Armourer - Pistol/Restricted Weapon	12	0	0	12

<sup>3</sup> An active endorsement holder is defined as individuals who are legally allowed to possess firearms due to holding both a current firearms licence and endorsement. This includes endorsements that have expired but the endorsement holder has applied to renew their endorsement before expiry. These are treated as "Current" until a final decision has been made.

Endorsement Type	Postal Code Available	Address Not Geocoded	Overseas Address	Sum
'L' Living History Theatrical Armourer - Prohibited Firearm	10	0	0	10
'L' Living History Theatrical Armourer - Prohibited Magazine	11	0	0	11
'M' Ammunition Seller	46	0	0	46
'M' Possess Prohibited Ammunition	284	1	1	286
'P' Collector - Prohibited Firearm	1,109	4	3	1,116
'P' Collector - Prohibited Magazine	1,234	4	4	1,242
'P' Memento/Heirloom - Prohibited Firearm	26	0	0	26
'P' Memento/Heirloom - Prohibited Magazine	24	0	0	24
'P' Pest Control - Prohibited Firearm	310	1	0	311
'P' Pest Control - Prohibited Magazine	310	1	0	311
'P' Prohibited Firearms and Magazines - Dealer Employee	7	0	1	8
'P' Theatrical - Prohibited Firearm	46	0	0	46
'P' Theatrical - Prohibited Magazine	54	0	0	54
'T' Theatrical Armourer - Pistol/Restricted Weapon	11	0	0	11
'T' Theatrical Armourer - Prohibited Firearm	11	0	0	11
'T' Theatrical Armourer - Prohibited Magazine	11	0	0	11
<b>Sum of Endorsements</b>	<b>11,031</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11,084</b>

Source: NIA, retrieved 11 February 2025.

Of the 11,801 active endorsements held under active Individual and Dealer firearms licences, 11,031 Individual and 690 Dealer firearms licence holders have postal codes of the licence address available for extraction in NIA. These licence holders are spread across a total of 892 postal codes.

I refer you to Table 4 below that shows the number of active endorsements held on Dealer Firearms licences broken down by post code category and sum, nationally as at 11 February 2025.

**Table 4: Number of Active Endorsements held on Dealer Firearms Licences broken down by Post Code Category and Sum, Nationally as at 11 February 2025**

Endorsement Type	Postal Code Available	Address Not Geocoded	Overseas Address	Sum
'D' Pistols	201	8	0	209
'D' Prohibited Firearm	159	6	0	165
'D' Prohibited Magazine	159	6	0	165
'D' Restricted Weapons	171	7	0	178
Sum of Endorsements:	690	27	0	717

Source: NIA, retrieved 11 February 2025.

You can view a distribution of individual licence holders and dealer licence holders by Police District at the following link. This data is correct as at 31 January.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-02/Firearms%20Public%20Dashboard%20-%20January25.pdf>

You can also view a distribution of 'Active individual licence endorsements by District'. You can click on the tab "Active endorsements by District" along the bottom of the spreadsheet, to take you to the relevant table.

[https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-01/Firearms%20Information%20Summary%20Report%20\\_2024-12-31.xlsx](https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-01/Firearms%20Information%20Summary%20Report%20_2024-12-31.xlsx)

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

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

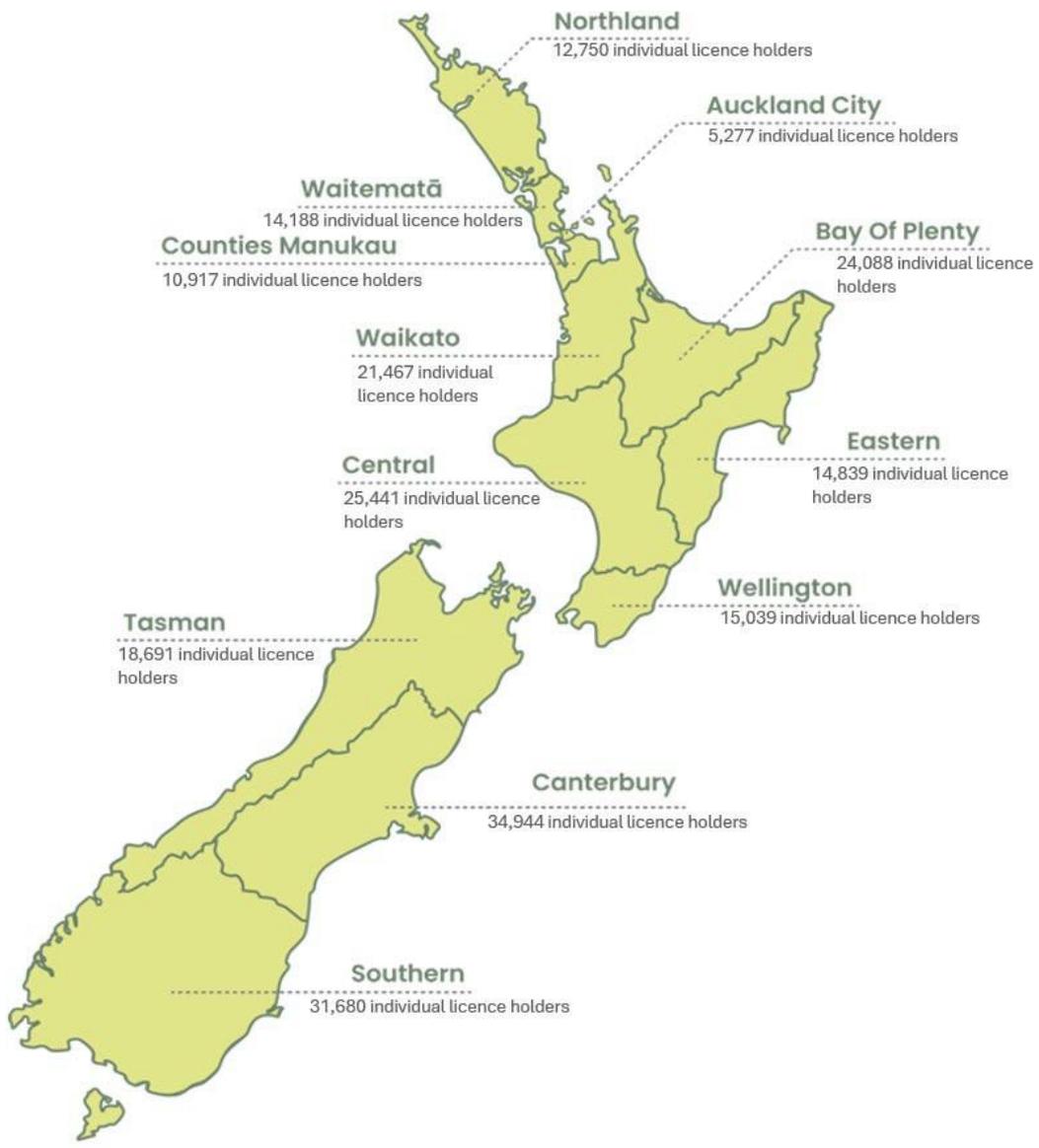
For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Nāku noa, nā



Matthew Boddy  
**Acting Director Operations**  
**Firearms Safety Authority**

**Appendix 1: Map of Police Districts broken down by Individual licence holders as at 11 February 2025**



Data current: 11 February 2025