

4 August 2025

IR-01-25-24794

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 7 July 2025. You asked for information related to “P-cat Pest licence holders”.

I have answered each question below.

*How many P-cat Pest licence holders are there in NZ?*

There are 318 active<sup>1</sup> P category endorsement holders in New Zealand as at 30 June 2025.

Note that this number only includes licence holders who have a ‘current’ or ‘renewal in progress’ licence and endorsement status. To hold an endorsement, an individual must have an active individual (A standard) firearms licence.

*Is it recorded how that number compares to last years numbers and how many have dropped off and how many new licence holders have come on. (do you have a reference for how many new P-cat licences have been issued year on year for the last four years)*

I refer you to the table below that shows data collated at the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

As of 30 June 2024, there were 318 P-Cat endorsement holders.

Between 30 June 2024 and 1 July 2025, 33 P-cat endorsement holders had ‘dropped off’ or no longer hold the P-cat endorsement.

Since 30 June 2024, 33 individual (A-standard) firearms licence holders have become P-cat endorsement holders by either applying to reinstate their endorsement, or by a first-time endorsement application.

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<sup>1</sup> Active licence holders are those who are legally allowed to possess firearms due to holding both a current firearms licence and endorsement. This includes licence and endorsements that have expired, but the licence holder has applied to renew their licence and/or endorsement before expiry – they are treated as current until a decision is made.

Of the 33 endorsements issued since 30 June 2024, 26 are new endorsement holders (refer to table 1 below) with the remaining 7 reactivating previously held P-category firearm endorsements.

Table 1 below shows the number of new firearms licence P category (Pest control) endorsements issued from financial years 2021/22 to 2024/25 as at 8 July 2025.

**Table 1: Number of new firearms licence P-category endorsements issued from financial years 2021/22 to 2024/25 as at 8 July 2025**

Financial Year	Number of new P-category (Pest) endorsements
2021/22	22
2022/23	32
2023/24	18
2024/25	26

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA) retrieved 8 July 2025

*How many P cat firearms are registered in NZ*

There were 357 prohibited firearms registered to P-Cat endorsement holders in New Zealand as of 14 July 2025.

In this context, 'registered' includes those that have been entered into the Firearms Registry and those that are recorded in the National Intelligence Application (NIA) under a permit to possess.

This data is 'point in time' and so will vary to other volumes previously reported.

*Can you determinate how many are 308 and how many are 223 and if so what QTY of each.*

I refer you to table 2 below that shows the number of registered firearms broken down by .223 and .308 calibre prohibited firearms, other firearms and total as at 14 July 2025.

**Table 2: Number of registered firearms broken down by .223 calibre and .308 calibre prohibited firearms, other firearms, and total as at 14 July 2025**

Calibre / Gauge	.223 calibre	.308 calibre	other
Prohibited firearm type registered to P-Cat endorsement holders	159	69	129
Other firearm type registered to P-Cat endorsement holders	10	9	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>148</b>

Source: Arms Information System (AIS) retrieved 14 July 2025

The data in table 2 includes firearms that have been registered and physically exist in New Zealand (i.e. they have not been destroyed or exported). It excludes firearm parts.

Registered P-Cat firearms are determined by the presence of 'P' Pest Control - Prohibited Firearm endorsement against a licence holder and the registered firearm associated to that individual in the Arms Information System (AIS).

The .308 and .223 calibre firearms have been identified and categorised based on the presence of keywords in the firearm calibre/gauge in the AIS and are reliant on the licence holders providing the correct calibre/gauge.

Other calibre/gauges have been included in this category based on the expert opinion from the Te Tari Pūreke Prohibited Team – this has included 7.62, 7.62X39 or similar identified as .308, and 5.56X45 or similar as .223.

*How many Pest control Prohibited permits to possess each year do the Permits team issue for P-cat holders. (last 2 years)*

I refer you to table 3 below that shows the number of permits to possess for pest control broken down by financial years, issued by permits team, issued by the prohibited endorsement team, other and total, as at 10 July 2025.

**Table 3: Number of Permits of Permits to Possess (Pest control) broken down by financial years, issued by Permits team, issued by Prohibited Endorsement team other and total, from 2023/24 to 2024/25 as at 10 July 2025**

Financial year	Issued by Permits team	Issued by Prohibited Endorsements team	Other	Total
2023/24	0	106	3	109
2024/25	1	310	14	325
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>434</b>

Source: Arms Information System (AIS) retrieved 14 July 2025

The permit issuing date is based on when the permit has been completed in NIA.

Permits with status of 'pending approval' and 'expired' (in NIA) are not included. Pest control permits have been identified by the presences of P-Cat endorsement linked to the permit.

This number is of individual permits – one licence holder may apply for 10 permits within a single application and will therefore appear in the number as 10 rather than one.

Multiple workgroups approve permits, however, permits for prohibited items are primarily managed by the Prohibited Endorsement Team.

*How many Pest Control Prohibited import permits are issued each year.*

I refer you to table 4 below that shows the number of permits to import broken down by financial year as at 10 July 2025.

**Table 4: Number of Permits to Import broken down by financial year and total as at 10 July 2025**

Financial year	Number of Permits to Import
2023/24	28
2024/25	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

Source: National intelligence Application (NIA) retrieved 10 July 2025

Permit issuing date is based on when the permit has been completed in NIA. Permits with status of 'pending approval' are not included.



This count is of individual permits – one licence holder may apply for 10 permits within a single application and will therefore appear in the count as 10 rather than one.

Multiple workgroups approve permits, however permits for prohibited items are primarily managed by the Prohibited Endorsement team.

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

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



Mike McIlraith

**Kaihautū Kōturi Tāngata | Director Partnerships & Communities, and  
Kaikawe Rautaki, Āheitanga | Acting Director Strategy, Performance & Capability  
Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority**