

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | March 2026

Kia ora,

In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

- Justice Select Committee now considering submissions
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- Update: more data available
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Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority



Justice select committee now considering submissions

The Government has committed to changing New Zealand's firearms regulatory system. Submissions on the Arms Bill recently closed, and the Justice Select Committee is now considering those submissions. The [Select Committee](#) webpage says their report is expected on 09 June, 2026. Until the Arms Bill is passed into law, firearms licence holders must continue complying with the existing legislation.



Contacts

If there is an immediate danger to people or property:

Phone 111

More firearms information on the Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority website:

firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz



Health and Firearms



Access and Storage

As a firearms licence holder you are responsible for controlling who has access to your firearms. You must keep the keys to your firearms and ammunition stored in a secure, separate place.

Storing firearms with other licence holders

There are concerns about access, you may consider storing your firearms with a trusted friend or family member who is a firearms licence holder and has the required licence and/or endorsements and permits for the items.



Scan for more info, or visit: firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz/storage-transportation

Being Proactive

Keeping healthy

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.

Make a plan

It's a good idea to make arrangements for the safe keeping or disposal of firearms in the event of physical or mental health condition or injury. This plan can be among your friends and whānau or shooting/hunting club.

You can update your will or enduring power of attorney documents to include instructions regarding wishes for your firearms and inform your next of kin of these plans.

Surrender a firearms licence

If you think your health might be impacting on your ability to safely use a firearm, you might consider surrendering your firearms licence. This can be done at any time, for any reason – even if you just don't need a licence any more.

- To surrender a licence:
 - Give your firearms and/or other arms items to a person who holds the correct licence and/or endorsement for safe keeping and contact the Firearms Safety Authority.
 - or
 - Contact the Firearms Safety Authority to discuss surrendering.

Remember, if you surrender your licence you cannot possess firearms, other arms items and/or ammunition, but you can still shoot under the supervision of a firearms licence holder. Someone who has surrendered their licence can re-apply for a licence at any point.



Scan for more info, or visit: firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing

Unwanted firearms

If you're in possession of unwanted or illegally held firearms, there are different options for lawful disposal. Find more information on our website: firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/dispose-illegally-held-or-unwanted-firearms

If Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is reviewing a licence, what could happen?

If we receive information about a licence holder's fit and proper status, or concerns for people who may have access to firearms (i.e. household members), a firearms licence may be reviewed. The outcomes of a review could be:

- No further action taken
- Seek more information
- Temporary licence suspension pending possible revocation
- Prescribed conditions added to a licence

If your licence is suspended, you will be notified, and Police will visit you to issue a Notice of Temporary Suspension.

This notice will explain the reason for suspension and next steps. You then have time to gather and submit information (e.g. providing a medical certificate) before a decision is made about revocation. Our team always works on a case-by-case basis to achieve the best outcome.

Health and Firearms brochure update

Between September 2025 and January 2026, more than 11,000 "Health and Firearms" brochures were distributed nationwide. Auckland and the East regions recorded the highest movement, with steady distribution also occurring across Central, Wellington, Canterbury, Northland, and Dunedin.

These brochures help licence holders and their whānau understand how health or cognitive changes may affect safe firearms use. Making these resources widely available remains an important part of our focus on promoting safe, responsible firearms possession across Aotearoa.

To download the pamphlet go to

[Health and Firearms Flyer.pdf](#), if you would like printed versions, please contact

firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz



firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz



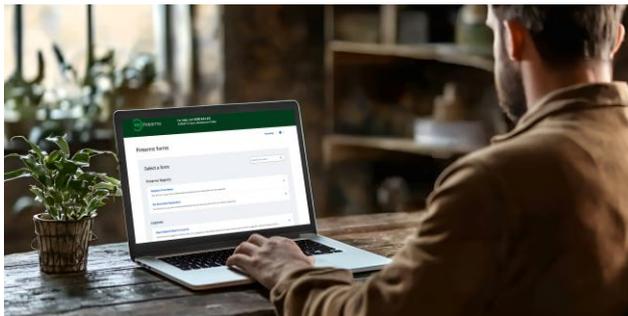
More data available

To help licence holders understand aspects of the firearms system, each month Te Tari Pūreke publishes statistical information in a 'Public Dashboard' and an 'Information Summary Report' on our website. To further improve transparency, from March 2026 the Information Summary Report will carry several new data sets. These include monthly data on:

- The number of 'Reports of Concerns' made by health practitioners to Te Tari Pūreke
- The total number of firearms registered by firearm type (e.g. rifle, shotgun, pistol, other); and legal classification (e.g. non-prohibited, restricted, etc.)
- The reasons for firearms licence revocations
- Registry call data, including:
 - Average speed to answer
 - Average wait time
 - Total answered calls
 - Total offered calls
 - Total abandoned calls
- Firearms Safety and Whakatūpatō courses data, including:
 - Course attendance
 - Course completion
 - Survey/feedback from participants

You can read the full information on our website:

[Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



How to validate your MyFirearms account

Logging in with RealMe is only the first step. RealMe confirms who you are online, but it doesn't prove you are the firearms licence holder. That's why Te Tari Pūreke require a one-off MyFirearms validation to link your account to your actual licence.

Validation protects your information and ensures only authorised people can use MyFirearms services, including managing your details, lodging applications, and completing transfers.

How to validate your account:

1. Log in:

Go to MyFirearms and log in with RealMe. Have your mobile phone ready for the security check.

2. Open 'My Activity':

Select My Activity to open your submissions dashboard.

3. Go to Submitted Forms:

Select MyFirearms Submitted Forms to view all forms you've lodged online.

4. Find your Complete Your Profile (CYP) form:

Under My submitted other forms, select the link starting with CYP.

5. Save and print your PDF:

Download the PDF at the top of the Submission page and print it.

6. Visit a Police station:

Bring the printed form and your firearms licence card. Police will verify your identity and validate your account.

Find out more about [MyFirearms](#) on our website.



Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust - firearms licensing support

Te Awanui ā Rua Charitable Trust is offering support for whānau across Taumarunui, Ōhakune, Raetihi, River Road and Whanganui who need help with firearms licence applications or renewals. Their Kaitiaki Kaimahi Guides can assist anyone aged 16+ with preparing documents, understanding the process, and completing online or paper applications. This kanohi-ki-te-kanohi support is especially helpful for those who prefer guidance from a trusted local provider.

If you need clarity around how your personal history relates to licensing, the Trust can connect you directly with Te Tari Pūreke. Upcoming testing wānanga (limited to 10 people) will be advertised through the Trust.

To get started, make sure you have a RealMe account and valid ID.

Enquiries:

kaitiakiguidesltd@gmail.com



Lean on a Gate

Southern Firearm Safety Officers recently connected with Craig Wiggins, founder of rural wellbeing initiative [Lean on a Gate](#), at the Southern Field Days. Following this, the Partnerships team has continued engagement to explore opportunities for wider collaboration. Craig highlighted growing mental health pressures in rural communities and the ongoing misconceptions around seeking help and retaining a firearms licence, which can deter people from accessing support. Our Safety Officers, and the Partnerships team are working to improve community understanding by providing clear, accessible information and reinforcing that seeking help is part of responsible firearms possession. Insights from these engagements support our ongoing outreach and guidance. Craig expressed strong interest in joint initiatives to strengthen rural wellbeing and address misinformation affecting licence holders.



Firearms safety in natural disasters

We've published new information to outline the key steps licence holders can take to stay safe and ensure their firearms remain secure in emergency situations. The information covers planning ahead, what to consider if you need to evacuate, how to

Photo credit: Cyclone Gabrielle, RNS News

store firearms safely during an event, and what checks to make once it's safe to return. The aim is to support responsible decision-making and reduce the risk of loss, theft, or damage during natural disasters.

You can read the full information on our website [here](#).



How to safely dispose of ordnance and explosives

Items such as military ordnance, gelignite, detonators, and expired flares can be extremely dangerous. If you find or have anything that may be explosive, **do not touch or move it**. Leave the area immediately and call **111**.

This includes old military grenades, shells, flares, or any material you believe could be explosive. Flares should only ever be used in genuine emergencies.

When reporting an item, provide the location, your contact details, and a brief description or photo (only if safe). Police will contact the New Zealand Defence Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Squadron to assess and remove the item.

Note: Te Tari Pūreke does not manage ordnance disposal - **these matters are handled by Police**.



Southern Field Days: engagement with rural firearms community

Te Tari Pūreke's presence at the [Southern Field Days](#) in Waimumu and Gore provided a valuable opportunity to connect directly with the rural firearms community. Across the three days, we engaged with around 700 visitors, with strong interest in licensing, renewals, and the registry. Feedback was constructive, and many attendees appreciated being able to speak face-to-face with Firearms Safety Officers, particularly when discussing technology or process concerns.

The event also helped strengthen relationships with partner organisations, including Fish & Game, NZDA branches, and rural-wellbeing groups such as Lean on a Gate. Attendees frequently commented that it was "great to see us here," reinforcing the importance of maintaining a visible and supportive regulatory presence in rural communities.





Happy International Women's Day

Women are an increasingly visible part of Aotearoa's firearms community. While they currently make up around nine percent of all licence holders, this is steadily changing. As of January 2026, almost one in five first-time applicants are women, showing a clear shift in who is choosing to get licensed.

It's encouraging to see more people from across the community taking up firearms safely and engaging with the licensing system.

Te Tari Pūreke publishes regular data to help New Zealanders better understand the makeup of the licence holder community and how the regulatory system is performing, including information on gender trends.

You can explore more of this data here:
[Firearms data and public information |](#)
[Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

Firearms safety



Coming to a town near you

This month, team members from Te Tari Pūreke will be out and about across the South Island and lower North Island.

These events are a great chance to come and chat with us, ask questions, and learn more about firearms licensing, safety courses, and the wider work of Te Tari Pūreke.

Where you can find us:

- Wānaka A&P Show – 13 & 14 March
- Central Field Days – 19–21 March
- Flaxbourne A&P Show – 22 March

If you're in the area, come say hi!

If you can't make it but still have questions about firearms, safety courses, or the licensing process, you can find more information on our website:

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/>

Keep up to date on the latest numbers

On our website, we proactively release firearms regulatory information to help people better understand features of the firearms licence-holder community, and aspects of the performance of New Zealand's firearms regulatory framework. The information below provides a snapshot of selected data.

This section contains:

- Active firearms licences summary, by type - Individual, Visitor and Dealer
- Firearms licensing completion summary - Individual, Visitor and Dealer. *This section now has the total number of licences completed in the given month, rather than a percentage, and broken down into different licence types.*
- Firearms Registry update - including total firearms, parts and licence holders registered

Two additional firearms data sets are now available, providing information on firearms regulation, Registry service performance, and Firearms Safety Course delivery.

More detailed firearms data is available at: [Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

Active firearms licences summary	
1 March 2026	
Individual	221,862
Visitor	469
Dealer*	423
Total	222,754

*A person who has a dealer licence must also have an individual licence.

Firearms licensing completion summary		
1 March 2026		
	Jan 2026	Feb 2026
Individual	1,470	1,665
Visitor	194	164
Dealer	21	23

Firearms Registry Update	
1 March 2026	
Total Firearms Registered	616,430
Total Firearms Parts Registered	17,697
Total Licence Holders Registered	131,215

Total Licence holders registered refers to all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part.

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz  Te Tari Pūreke Firearms Safety Authority



If you have feedback on this pānui or there is anything you would like to see in future editions, please email firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz

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