

10 April 2026

**s 9(2)(a) OIA Privacy**

Tēnā koe **s 9(2)(a) OIA**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests dated 22 February 2026. I have answered each of your questions below:

### Request 1

*Supplementary to IR-01-25-46056*

- 1. The response documents state that firearms could not be modified, pre-policy change, unless the owner had a P-endorsement and a PTP for that firearm. During this time (post amnesty right up to 2025 policy change), what was policy for granting suitable endorsements to allow prohibited firearms to be possessed for the purpose of conversion to A-category?*


Post amnesty our policy did not allow licence holders unlawfully in possession of prohibited firearms to apply for endorsements purely for conversion of those prohibited firearms. Licence holders unlawfully in possession of prohibited firearms were required to surrender them.

- 2. How many endorsement applications, and PTP, that were lodged for the purpose of then conducting a conversion modification, were denied prior to the change in policy in 2025?*

Due to how this data is recorded, identifying the reasons for endorsement applications and permit possess applications would require manual interrogation of 957 individual applications. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial research and collation.

- 3. The conversion of a firearm from a prohibited firearm to a non-prohibited firearm was an activating event for the register. How many times did this event occur pre policy change?*

Due to how this data is recorded, identifying the reasons for 'Compliance and Enforcement' activating circumstances would require manual interrogation of 4750 individual records. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial research and collation.

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4. *How many Troy PAR 223 pump action rifles are registered as A-category? And how many are P-category and held by pest controllers? How many are held by collectors?*

The Firearms Reference Table (FRT) is a database of the most common firearms in New Zealand. This database is linked to the Arms Information System (AIS) and allows the licence holder to select from a list of options when registering their firearm. The Troy PAR 223 pump action rifle is classified in the FRT as a prohibited firearm.

Troy PAR 223 pump action rifles have a detachable magazine which are specifically identified under s2A(ii) of the Arms Act 1983<sup>1</sup> as a prohibited firearm and are not classified as A category. Therefore, there are zero Troy PAR 223 pump action rifles registered as A-category (Individual) firearms in AIS.

Licence holders wishing to possess a prohibited firearm must hold a valid endorsement and permit for the firearm. Licence holders with a valid endorsement may share a firearm, however each person requires a permit to possess or use the firearm. Information on endorsements and permits are recorded in the National Intelligence Application (NIA) database.

As of 10 March 2026, there are a total of three Troy PAR 223 pump action rifles recorded in NIA. One Troy PAR 223 pump action rifle is shared between two pest control endorsement holders, and two are held by two collectors (Figure one). This includes only permits issued where the licence holder has confirmed they are in possession of the firearm. This does not include Troy PAR 223 pump action rifles held by Dealers.

Only pest control endorsement holders are permitted to possess these firearms in an operable state with specific conditions such as secure storage and transport. Collectors are permitted to possess these firearms, however they must be stored and maintained in an inoperable state by removal of a vital part, and the vital part must be stored at an approved address different from where the firearm is stored.

The action type field in NIA is a non-mandatory field therefore this will not include records where no action type is selected.

Troy PAR 223 pump action rifles have been identified based on the presence of 'Troy' in the arms item model field in NIA, 'Pump-action' in the action type field, and '223' in the calibre/gauge field. Some of these fields are non-mandatory free-text fields therefore the nature and quality of entries vary, so these figures should be considered indicative and not a definitive count of people in possession of a Troy PAR 223 pump action rifle.

The total Troy PAR 223 rifles registered in AIS (Figure one) are firearms that physically exist and have not been marked as destroyed, consumed, or exported. The table shows a point in time data capture of the number of licence holders who have a Troy PAR 223 pump action rifle registered to them as of 10 March 2026. This does not represent any registration history of these firearms and this is not necessarily indicative of the licence holder who most recently registered the firearm.

For example, an endorsement holder may have initially registered the firearm and subsequently transferred it to another endorsement holder who has not yet registered it,

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[https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS187084.html?search=sw\\_096be8ed820021bb\\_detachable\\_25\\_se&p=1&sr=0](https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS187084.html?search=sw_096be8ed820021bb_detachable_25_se&p=1&sr=0)

however the current owner will appear in the below table. For licence holders that share a firearm, as is the case with two pest control endorsement holders, only one individual needs to register the firearm.

**Figure one:** Total Troy PAR 223 pump action rifles held by licence holders.

| <i>Licence/Endorsement type</i> | <i>Licence holders</i> | <i>Troy PAR 223 Rifles recorded in NIA</i> | <i>Troy PAR 223 Rifles registered in AIS</i> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Individual                      | 0                      | 0  | 0  |
| Pest control                    | 2                      | 1  | 1  |
| Collector                       | 2                      | 2  | 1  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>4</b>               | <b>3</b>                                   | <b>2</b>                                     |

**Source:** National Intelligence Application (NIA) and Arms Information System (AIS), retrieved 10 March 2026

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

## **Request 2**

1. *What was the basis for the exclusion of semi-automatic rimfire and shotgun firearms with tubular magazines from the pathway?*


All policy changes must remain consistent with the Arms Act 1983. This Act specifically identifies semi-automatic rimfire firearms and certain shotguns as prohibited firearms.

The current policy does not allow for conversion of prohibited firearms by people unlawfully possessing them. The policy applies only to firearms fitted with non-detachable prohibited magazines, provided the firearm itself is not already classified as a prohibited firearm under the Act.

2. *Why did the PR plan not involve emailing every license holder re the pathway, if the problem that caused the need for it was a general lack of awareness about rimfire magazine capacity laws. How was not doing this supposed to aid compliance and awareness?*

Our communications approach has been an operational decision. The scale of those affected by this policy has not been considered to warrant communications with every licence holder. Our communications approach has also been in line with how we have chosen to manage cases as they have arisen, which has been through case managing licence holders individually.

Previously, communications about the possession of prohibited firearms were widely distributed through both the 2019 and 2021 amnesty and buyback programmes. These programmes provided licence holders the opportunities to surrender prohibited items for compensation, to have their prohibited items considered for modification (2019 buyback only), and to consider endorsement applications to retain their prohibited items. Licence holders who made notification before the initial buyback period ended were treated as



complying with the law while Police processed their applications. The amnesty period for the 2021 buyback ended in 2021.

The impetus for our new policy has been that as firearms have been entered into the Registry, the scale of the people possessing .22 rimfire rifles with prohibited magazines has become more apparent. Given the small number of licence holders identified, we assessed that a national notification was not warranted. Instead, we adopted a targeted approach, case-managing individual licence holders as specific instances emerged. We have also put out communications on our [website](#), in our [Panui newsletter](#) and we updated key industry stakeholders of this policy change.

This targeted approach included reviewing Police Register of Property for seized firearms and retaining them where possible to allow owners to be offered options; contacting all dealers and gunsmiths and contacting licence holders to discuss their options once their firearms were entered into the Registry. The options available to licence holders are destruction, modification, or obtaining a suitable endorsement.

- 3. If there was no change to the law/regs around the time of the policy change to enable this policy change, why did the FSA not change the policy earlier?*

It was only with the Registry coming into force in 2023 that licence holders began registering non-prohibited firearms that had these prohibited magazines attached, bringing these cases to our attention. As noted in our previous OIA response, our senior leadership first considered this issue in October 2023 and our initial policy was implemented at that time. Although the paper went to senior leadership in October, it was based on advice received in September 2023, shortly after the Firearms Registry went live on 24 June 2023.

As additional cases emerged over time, we reviewed and refined the policy to ensure it remained appropriate and consistent with legislative requirements.


- 4. The documents provided prove that since Reg 28U was repealed, there is nothing in the current legislative framework to prohibit conversion of prohibited firearms, is this why the expansion of the policy to include centrefire firearms is identified as a risk, as there is no legal bar due to 28U being repealed?*

There is nothing in legislation that requires us to make allowances for licence holders who have unlawful possession of prohibited firearms or prohibited magazines. Such possession is a serious offence, and a conviction for unlawful possession of a prohibited firearm is a disqualifying offence for a firearms licence holder.

Our policy approach has focused on encouraging compliance by supporting licence holders who are otherwise making every effort to meet their legal obligations, including registering their firearms. In fact, registration has been the primary mechanism through which these instances have come to our attention, as noted above.

There are elements in legislation where we can as a regulator develop policy approaches that are in line with legislation. We have been able to develop a policy approach that is consistent with the legislation and provides a practical and beneficial pathway for affected licence holders, without compromising compliance or public safety.

- 5. Prior to the policy change how many P-endorsements and PTP's were granted to convert P-cat firearms to A-cat?*



Due to how this data is recorded, identifying the reasons for endorsement applications and permit to possess applications would require manual interrogation of at least 760 individual endorsement and permit application. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial research and collation.

In considering refusing parts 2 and 3 of request 1 and part 5 of request 2, we note that there are 6,467 records requiring manual review. At a conservative estimate of five minutes per record, this equates to more than 500 hours of work. We do not have dedicated staff available to undertake this level of review, and reallocating existing staff would significantly divert them from their core functions.

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



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