

18 February 2026

IR-01-26-3940

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe **s 9(2)(a) OIA**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 4 February 2026. I have answered each of your questions below:

I wish to know whether during the Ministry of Justice Arms Act rewrite consultation process, or during the passage of the Arms Bill, Police/FSA were requested to use the firearms license database to email each license holder.

The key information I want to know is:


- 1. Did the MOJ request that the FSA/Police circulate information about the Arms Act Rewrite and/or Bill submission information via email?*
- 2. If so, did the FSA/Police reject that request, and if so, why?*
- 3. Or alternatively, did the MOJ never request that the firearms license data base be used as a contact list to circulate key information about the abovementioned processes to contact license holders via email.*
- 4. Can the FSA advise if they would be willing to do so in the future if MOJ requested it.*

In answering this request I would like to receive primary source information such as emails, reports, text messages, meeting minutes, to detail what occurred (if anything) and why the Police/FSA responded how they did.

Police and Te Tari Pūreke have not received any request from the Ministry of Justice to distribute information to firearms licence holders via email, nor to use information contained in the firearms licence database for the purpose of communicating about the Arms Act rewrite. Accordingly, the part of your request seeking primary source information about such a request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held.

As the administrator of the Arms Act 1983, information about the process and what is changing is available on the Ministry of Justice website¹.

¹ <https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/news-and-media/news/arms-act-rewrite-decisions-announced/>



On 11 December 2025, Parliament's Justice Committee announced that it was inviting submissions on the rewrite of the Arms Act. They are responsible for these Parliamentary processes, including how they reach any New Zealanders that might wish to make a submission. You can find their statement here:

<https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/committees-press-releases/have-your-say-on-the-rewrite-of-the-arms-act-1/>. As the regulator we have shared information about the process through our channels including stakeholder newsletters, on our website (pointing people to the Ministry of Justice web page in the first instance), and on social media. Submissions closed on 16 February 2026.

Once the new Arms Act has received royal assent, Te Tari Pūreke will communicate any changes to licence holders to ensure they continue to comply with their legal obligations. A channels plan will likely be created for this project, but at this time it has not been prepared. Accordingly, this part of your request seeking primary source information about such a request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held.

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



Bruce Bird
**Acting Executive Director
Firearms Safety Authority**