

3 February 2026

IR-01-26-2265

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe **s 9(2)(a) OIA**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 16 January 2026. I have answered each of your questions below:

I understand that close family members of gang members and affiliates must go through extra steps in vetting to get/retain a firearms license. Is this correct?

Do people who are family members of people investigated for connections to terrorist groups have to undergo similar scrutiny, or is this ignored in vetting for a firearms license?

Under section 24A of the Arms Act 1983¹ Police may find a person is not a fit and proper person to be in possession of a firearm or an airgun if the member of the Police is satisfied that the person is a member of, or has close affiliations with, a gang or an organised criminal group and/or the person has been assessed as a risk to a State's national security.


In assessing a person and whether they are fit and proper, Police have the discretion to seek and receive information from any other source we consider relevant. This can include checking with other government agencies, requiring additional referees, checking with other parts of Police.

Once a firearms licence application is received, and at several points throughout the assessment process, Police conduct inquiries and review any relevant intelligence to ensure it aligns with the information provided by the applicant.

Where an applicant is known to associate with gang members, a terrorist organisation, or family members who have connections to such groups, this is a factor that we are expected to examine in greater detail. In these cases, we will seek information on whether an association exists, the nature and extent of that association, and what measures the applicant will take to prevent gang members or other unauthorised individuals from accessing or using their firearms.

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https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS440359.html?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_arms+act_resele_25_a&p=1



For more complex applications where gang or terror group associations have been identified, the applications are subject to more reviews, generally by supervisors or district review panels – this is to ensure our processes have been followed and measured decisions are made.

For any applicants where we have identified national security connections, their applications are scrutinised to determine whether any further action is required by Police. In some instances, upon further investigation, it can be determined that no concerns exist.

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



Matthew Boddy
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Firearms Safety Authority