

21 January 2026

IR-01-25-41737

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe **s 9(2)(a) OIA**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 15 November 2025.

I have answered each of your questions below relating to Alfa Carbines:

Can I please receive all the material (including the permit) and communication relating to that permit (referred to in the above response) from the time of lodgement to the time of rejection between the FSA/Police and the applicant. Can I also receive internal Police/FSA materials/communications detailing the decision-making process to reject the permit to import the 'Alfa Carbines.'

The last permit to import was refused on 31 May 2023. Police had evidence that this make and model of firearm had become highly desirable by the criminal fraternity. They had been shown to be relatively easily converted into pistols unlawfully and being used in criminal activity.

Police raised concerns about further importations which were highlighted by the conviction of a former Hells Angel member who, with the help of others, purchased 21 Alfa Carbine rifles that had been converted to pistols. They were in turn sold to criminal gangs. This has been proven to not be an isolated incident and there was diversion of significant numbers of Alfa Carbines and Alfa Hunters.

All other information that is personal to the permit applicant has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, where withholding is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Can the FSA/Police confirm if at the time of rejection, the firearms had already been shipped to NZ pending border clearance?

At the time the decision was made to refuse the permit, the Authority could not confirm if the items had been shipped. Note it is an offence to import firearms without a permit as per, section 16¹ of the Arms Act 1983.

Can I also receive a copy of the permit/material and correspondence between the applicant and FSA/Police for the most recent successful import permit for alfa carbines?

¹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/DLM72903.html>

The last permit to import was approved was in June 2021. This permit was approved under the condition it was to be re-sampled as per section 18(1) of the Arms Act².

The reason for re-sampling was due to the changes in the Arms Act at that time. All other information that is personal to the permit applicant has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, where withholding is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Are the reasons for importation the same between the two applications?

Yes, the reason provided was “for resale to licence holders”.

Have Police/FSA contacted (or been contacted by) the relevant Minister to have alfa carbines in New Zealand reclassified?

I have not located any record of the Authority and/or Police recommending to the Minister of Police that Alfa Carbines be reclassified under section 74A of the Arms Act³. I have not located any record of the Minister of Police during this time period requesting advice from the Authority and/or Police about reclassifying Alfa Carbines under the Arms Act.

Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held.

Has the introduction of the register changed Police/FSA's position on importing Alfa Carbines

As per the previous response IR-01-25-38448, no permits to import have been received since 31 May 2023 for Alfa Carbines. The Registry commenced from 24 June 2023.

Police considers the interests requiring protection by withholding the information are not outweighed by any public interest in release of the information.

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
Director - Service Delivery
Firearms Safety Authority

² <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/DLM72906.html>

³ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/DLM5829962.html>