

15 January 2026

IR-01-25-43077

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe **s 9(2)(a) OIA**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 25 November 2025. I have answered each of your questions below:

Can we please get the number of firearms licenses issued in Otago, and in Southland, and Nationally between 01/01/2025 and 25/11/2025, as well as between 01/01/2024 and 25/11/2024, and 01/01/2023 and 25/11/2023.

Licences issued is based on a system date generated at the time a firearms licence is completed, and the licence is issued. It is not indicative of the individual status of this number of licences at time of reporting. For example, licences may have subsequently been surrendered, revoked etc.

This same 'Licence completion' date field is updated and overwritten each time an application is renewed and therefore this is a point in time data capture of licences that have a completion date during the requested period. This does not include refusals, withdrawals, or approved endorsement applications. This includes Individual and Dealer licences completed but does not include Visitor licences.

Table One: Number of firearms licences issued by each date range (as specified on the table below)

	2023 1 January 2023 – 25 November 2023	2024 1 January 2024 – 25 November 2024	2025 1 January 2025 – 25 November 2025
Otago Coastal Area and Otago Lakes Central Area combined	1,976	1,646	1,953
Southland Area	1,065	1,151	1,276
National			
National count includes the totals from Otago Coastal, Otago Lakes, and Southland areas.	19,870	20,001	23,351

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 28 November 2025. Refer to Appendix A for location boundaries

Can we also get the number of total applications received from Otago, Southland, and the national figures between 01/01/2025 and 25/11/2025, as well as between 01/01/2024 and 25/11/2024, and 01/01/2023 and 25/11/2023.

Licence demand is based on a system date generated at the time a firearms licence is applied for. It is not indicative of the individual status of this number of licences at time of reporting. For example, licences may have subsequently been refused, withdrawn, surrendered, revoked etc.

There are more licences issued than what has been received (Table One), during each time period as the number of issued licences is based on the completion date of the licence. These applications may have been received outside of the period the data has been analysed from but completed during it. This will mean that they are not counted in Table One but meet the criteria to be included in Table Two.

This same 'Licence application' date field is updated and overwritten each time an application is applied for and therefore this is a point in time data capture of licences that have an application date during the requested period. This does not include endorsement applications.

Data includes licence applications for new (including licence holders who previously held a current licence but this expired, and they subsequently applied to hold a current licence again), and renewal licence applications for individual and dealer licences (This does not include endorsement applications received or Visitor licence applications) (Table two).

Table Two: Number of firearms licence applications received by date range (as specified on the table below)

	2023 1 January 2023 – 25 November 2023	2024 1 January 2024 – 25 November 2024	2025 1 January 2025 – 25 November 2025
Otago Coastal Area and Otago Lakes Central Area combined	1,396	2,138	2,235
Southland Area	890	1,347	1,605
National			
National count includes the totals from Otago Coastal, Otago Lakes, and Southland areas.	16,170	24,892	27,662

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 28 November 2025

Can I please also get the number of rejected applications in Otago, Southland and nationally - as well as the reason for the rejections between 01/01/2025 and 25/11/2025, as well as between 01/01/2024 and 25/11/2024, and 01/01/2023 and 25/11/2023.

The location for refusal events is based on licence address area and is therefore an estimate of total refusals in these locations.

This is not indicative of the individual status of this number of licences at time of reporting. For example, licences may have been initially refused and subsequently approved however they would still appear in Table Three. This does not include refused endorsement or Visitor licence applications.

Table Three: Number of refused firearms licence applications by date range (distinct count of event ID) (as specified in table below).

	Number of applications refused		
	2023	2024	2025
	1 January 2023 – 25 November 2023	1 January 2024 – 25 November 2024	1 January 2025 – 25 November 2025
Otago Coastal Area and Otago Lakes Central Area combined	38	20	24
Southland Area	17	8	11
National			
National count includes the totals from Otago Coastal, Otago Lakes, and Southland areas.	491	284	266

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 28 November 2025

The table below (Table four) only counts those licences with a refusal reason specified. Some refusals do not have a reason applied or have multiple reasons on one licence. The volumes identified in Table four will not total Table three because of this.

Licence refusal reasons are outlined below (Table four). Included in the table are the following counts:

- a. **Distinct events** – This refers to the number of refusal events with a reason associated to them. A singular licence refusal can be given multiple reasons if it meets more than one criterion under different legislative acts. A distinct count of these means that each refusal event is counted once, even if there are multiple reasons for the refusal.
- b. **Sum of events** – This refers to the number of refusal events on a licence, however instead of counting each reason once, it counts each reason, regardless of whether it is on the same licence.

The main count in the table is based on the distinct count of the refusal event identification number.

The ability to capture the reason for the licence refusal has only been in place since 23 October 2023, prior to this we are unable to identify the reason why a licence refusal has occurred. Due to this, the volumes from 2023 are only captured between 23 October 2023 and 25 November 2023. Therefore, the part of your request for information covering the period 1 January 2023 to 22 October 2023 is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held.

Please see Appendix B for a more specific definition of each act and section.

Table Four: Number of refused firearms licence applications by reason (distinct count of refusal event)

Category	Section of Act	23 October 2023 – 25 November 2023			1 January 2024 – 25 November 2024			1 January 2025 – 25 November 2025		
		Otago areas	Southern	National ¹	Otago areas	Southern	National ²	Otago areas	Southern	National ³
5F/Protection Orders	22H(b)			1			10			7
	24A(1)(d)(i)			1	1		4	1		5
	24A(1)(d)(ii)							1		1
	24A(1)(e)			1			15	1		12
Access	24(2)			1			1			
	60A(1)(c)						2			
Administrative	24(1)(a)(ii)									6
	Reg 15(1)							1	1	20
Alcohol/Drug abuse	24A(1)(i)			2			16	1		10
	24A(1)(j)			3			3			6
Commissioned Officer	27(2)(a)				1		1			
Gang affiliations	24A(1)(k)			3			12			6
Non-compliance	24(1)(b)			1			3			3
	24A(1)(g)	1		10	10	2	124	13	7	149
	24A(1)(g) – Registry						4	1		2
Offences	22H(a)		1	3	1	1	7			3
	24A(1)(a)			6	3	3	53	2	2	38

¹ All National counts have the Otago and Southern areas counts included.

² All National counts have the Otago and Southern areas counts included.

³ All National counts have the Otago and Southern areas counts included.

	24A(1)(b)						7			8
	24A(1)(c)			1			4			4
Other	24A(1)(n)						2			3
	24A(2)(c)			18	5	4	102	10	5	126
	23(1)(a)			5						
Physical/mental illness	24A(1)(h)				3		23	1		16
Failure to complete Firearms Safety Course	Reg 14	3		9	5	3	59	8	5	98
Sum of refusal reasons		4	1	65	29	13	452	40	20	523
Distinct count of licence holder with refusal reasons		4	1	39	20	8	262	21	11	251

Source: National Intelligence Application, retrieved 28 November 2025

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

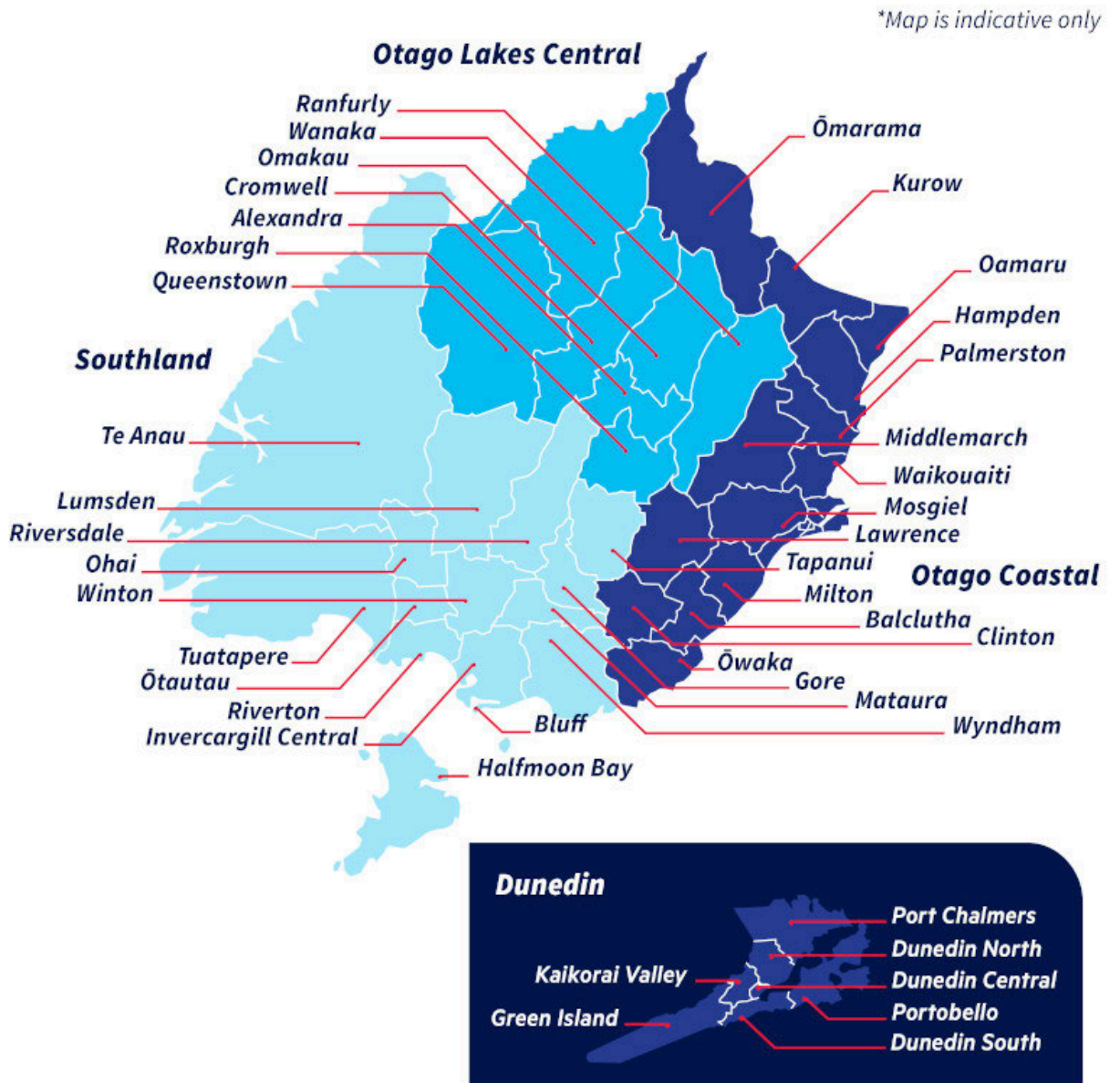
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew Boddy
Director - Service Delivery
Firearms Safety Authority

Appendix A


New Zealand Police is divided into 12 districts, nine in the North Island and three in the South Island. Each district is divided into areas and has a central station from which subsidiary and suburban stations are managed. Location data for firearms licence holders is allocated within these areas, therefore boundaries may differ from other location definitions.

The below map outlines the Police areas that cover Southern District, which displays the boundaries for Otago Lakes Central Area, Otago Coastal Area and Southland Area. These location boundaries should be treated as estimates only.



Appendix B – Act and reason for refusal further definitions

Category	Section of Act	Further definition
5F/Protection Orders	22H(b)	Disqualified due to Protection order/s
	24A(1)(d)(i)	If a person has, or has had at any time, a temporary protection order made against them under section 79 of the Family Violence Act 2018.
	24A(1)(d)(ii)	If a person has, or has had at any time, a temporary protection order made against them under section 14 of the Domestic Violence Act 1995, they may be deemed to be not a fit and proper person.
	24A(1)(e)	If a person has inflicted, or is inflicting, family violence against another person and that other person has grounds under the Family Violence Act 2018 to apply for a protection order in respect of that violence.
Access	24(2)	Access is reasonably likely to be obtained by a person whose firearms licence has been revoked, is not fit and proper or is disqualified from holding for a firearms licence.
	60A(1)(c)	Access is reasonably likely to be obtained by a person whose application for a firearms licence has been refused, revoked, not fit and proper and temporarily suspended.
Administrative	24(1)(a)(ii)	Police have not received sufficient information and therefore, are unable to be satisfied the applicant is fit and proper.
	Reg 15(1)	Every application for a firearms licence must state all information required by Regulation 15(1).
Alcohol/Drug abuse	24A(1)(i)	If a person abuses alcohol, or is dependent on alcohol, to an extent that affects detrimentally their judgement or behaviour.
	24A(1)(j)	If a person uses drugs (illegal or legal) in a way that affects detrimentally their judgement or behaviour.
Commissioned Officer	27(2)(a)	Commissioned Officers revocation; Commissioned Officers revocation – Access.
Gang affiliations	24A(1)(k)	If a person is a member of, or has close affiliations with, a gang or an organised criminal group.
Non-compliance	24(1)(b)	If a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence under the Arms Act 1983.
	24A(1)(g)	If a person has engaged in any conduct involving non-compliance with any requirements of (i) this Act; or (ii) any regulations made under this Act; or (iii) any conditions to which a permit, licence, or endorsement previously issued.
	24A(1)(g) – Registry	Registry: if a person has engaged in any conduct involving non-compliance with any requirements of (i) this Act; or (ii) any regulations made under this Act; or (iii) any conditions to which a permit, licence, or endorsement previously issued.
Offences	22H(a)	If a person is charged with or has been convicted of a disqualifying offence.
	24A(1)(a)	If a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence in New Zealand or overseas that is punishable by a term of imprisonment.
	24A(1)(b)	If a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence under the Arms Act 1983.
	24A(1)(c)	If a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence against (i) section 231A of the Crimes Act 1961; or (ii) the Game Animal Council Act 2013; or (iii) the Wildlife Act 1953; or (iv) the Wild Animal Control Act 1977.
Other	24A(1)(n)	If a person satisfies any criteria prescribed in regulations made under Section 74(1)(bb).
	24A(2)(c)	In determining whether a person is a fit and proper person to be in possession of a firearm or an airgun, the member of the Police may consider any other relevant matters the member of the Police considers appropriate.
	23(1)(a)	The person is not over the age of 16 years



Physical/mental illness	24A(1)(h)	if a person shows, or has recently shown, symptoms of a mental or physical illness or injury that may adversely affect their ability to safely possess firearms.
Failure to complete Firearms Safety Course	Reg 14	Every applicant for a firearms licence shall undergo a course of training which is designed to teach the applicant to handle firearms safely; and pass such tests as may be required to determine the applicant's ability to handle firearms safely.