

30 March 2026

IR-01-26-6269

s 9(2)(a) OIA Privacy

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a) OIA

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 23 February 2026. I have answered each of your questions below:

*Supplementary to IR-01-25-4605*

*When the conversion policy for rimfire firearms was changed, it is clear that despite Regulation 28U being repealed, the policy that was enacted was largely based on that. However, 28U allowed for the modification of tubular fed magazine shotguns, and semi automatic rimfire firearms with tubular magazines. Can you please supply primary source documents that detail why they were excluded from the revisited policy. Particularly documents that identify the risks and benefits of the inclusion of these firearms in the revised policy. How was not allowing these firearms to be modified conducive to public safety when a range of firearms were allowed to be modified from prohibited to non-prohibited. How much weight was placed on public perception risks when it came to making this decision?*


While the updated policy permitting the modification of large-capacity, non-detachable tubular magazines for .22 rimfire firearms is similar in intent to former regulation 28U, it was never intended to replace regulation 28U following its repeal. Regulation 28U related specifically to the buyback and was repealed once that programme concluded.

However, our experience with regulation 28U has provided valuable insights into how such modifications can be effectively managed in practice.

The updated policy was intended to address firearms that were not otherwise prohibited, except for the presence of a non-detachable tubular magazine that is itself classified as prohibited. As a result, the prohibited status was applied to the entire firearm. In contrast, under section 2A(a) of the Arms Act 1983, semi-automatic firearms, other than those listed in sections 2A(a)(i)(A)-(D), and pump-action shotguns equipped with non-detachable tubular magazines are expressly defined as prohibited firearms.

All primary source documents outlining the background and policy have already been provided in our response to you under OIA IR-01-25-4605.

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



Laura Searancke  
**Director Regulatory Compliance and Investigations**  
**Firearms Safety Authority**