

Meeting Minutes

5 September 2024

Firearms Community Advisory Forum

9:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting details	5 September 2024 Deer Stalkers House, 3 Collina Terrace, Thorndon 9:30am – 12:30pm
In attendance	<p>Te Tari Pūreke: Charlotte Etheridge, Emilia Steer, Ewan Kelsall, John Herbert, Kendra Hill (Chair), Matt Lambert, Mike McIlraith, Mike Tarttelin, Nopera Hauwaho, Douglas Brett.</p> <p>Other: Jenna Marsh (NZ Police), Katie Gunatunga (MOJ), Rose Stainer (MOJ), Nicole Doriguzzi (Minute Taker)</p> <p>FCAF members: Andrew Edgecombe, Gary Elmes, Gwyn Thurlow, Joe Green, Roger Duxfield, Adam Smith, Andrew Bakker, Kirsty Marshall, Pete Thomas, Steve Goodman, Jared Wright, Mark Walker, Sharron Davie-Martin, Daryl May, Zhala Sharifi, Corina Jordan Online: Arthur Cozens, Pete Thomas, Peter Furley</p>
Apologies	Antonia Kohler, Lindsay Keats, Phil Holland, Chris Clearwater, Dave Benfell, Piper Benbow, Piripi Curtis

Item 1	Welcome, apologies, introduction of new members, processes, and meeting rules
Discussion	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a karakia. The karakia wording has been sent to the Forum to practice if they wish.</p> <p>The agenda was confirmed, and Forum members introduced themselves.</p> <p>The Chair has emailed the Forum a membership update which shows new members.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 2	Confirm previous minutes and action points
Discussion	The Forum noted that the minutes from the meeting held on 6 June 2024 have been confirmed by email as a true and accurate record and are published on the website:

	<p>https://www.Firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/about-us/Firearms-community-advisory-Forum-fcaf</p> <p>All current action items have been closed (see Table below).</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 3	Partnerships updates
Discussion	<p>Te Tari Pūreke noted:</p> <p><u><i>Museum:</i></u> Guidance is under development for Museums. Te Tari Pūreke has been working with representatives from the museum community. The Forum can contact the Partnerships Manager for further information.</p> <p><u><i>Firearm Auctions:</i></u> A nationally consistent approach for how these are run is being worked on. A guidance document is under development. Advice is currently being sought.</p> <p><u><i>Pistol Endorsement Obligations:</i></u> A workbook document has been created which is currently in final drafting to assist new pistol shooters understand their obligations and pass the required possession, use and obligations examination. Improved understand of obligations will help shooters enjoyment of the sport while keeping everyone safe. A lot of work has been put into this and it will hopefully be ready for the Pistol NZ AGM.</p> <p><u><i>Storage and Transport guide:</i></u> The storage and transport guide is currently being updated and the next version will be available shortly. The Forum noted there is still variance as to how this is applied throughout New Zealand, and it will be good to get better clarity and a consistent approach.</p> <p><u><i>Wellbeing and Firearms brochure:</i></u> A brochure is under development to cover information about firearms licences and use and licence holder wellbeing. The pamphlet is hoped to not only help licenced gun holders but also provide their family members information around safety and wellbeing.</p> <p><u><i>Thermal Imagers:</i></u> Concerns have been raised previously and there is conversation amongst the firearms community about safe use of thermal devices. Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships Manager has obtained a thermal imager and has been testing it at night to get a first-hand understanding. Te Tari Pūreke are now looking at calling a meeting of the Recreational Users Working Group to discuss what can be done to ensure safety. The Forum suggested the professional hunting community be consulted for input; this includes pest controllers.</p>

	<p><u><i>DOC Goat Hunting Competition:</i></u> There has been a good uptake so far with great feedback. It has been positive with firearms safety being promoted.</p> <p><u><i>Sika Show 2024:</i></u> Te Tari Pūreke will have a stall again this year which will promote safety and compliance with a focus on storage.</p> <p><u><i>Print and Marketing:</i></u> Several of our firearms community have asked for information they can display or hand out to licence holders, visitors or members. There is now an online system to order collateral (e.g., chamber safety flags and A5 cards). You can request access to this by emailing Firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz.</p> <p><u><i>Firearms Security Advertising Campaign:</i></u> There has been an online and radio campaign for the roar and duck shooting during the peak hunting periods. Te Tari Pūreke are now gearing up for the next campaign. Most of the time firearms are stored in a safe so, it is important to go back to the grass roots to reinforce safe storage concepts. This campaign will be through provincial media, trade me, radio, online etc. The Forum agreed this is an essential area to focus on.</p> <p>There were no further comments or questions.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 4 Firearms theft deep dive	
Discussion	<p>Te Tari Pūreke presented a ‘deep dive’ into firearm theft. The study looked at how many times a firearm was taken/attempted to be taken in a burglary and/or theft and from where. As there is no specific Firearm burglary or theft charge in the Police database, over 410,000 incidents had to be assessed to understand which related to firearm thefts. Dealer and retailer thefts were not included in this data.</p> <p>Note: in the following information, <i>occurrences</i> are events where firearms were taken/attempted to be taken, not the actual number of firearms involved.</p> <p>In 2023 there were 147 occurrences where a was firearm taken/attempted to be taken in a burglary and/or theft. Of those occurrences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 occurrences were unsuccessful • 115 occurrences were successful, and at least one firearm was taken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 82 occurrences where a firearm was taken, it was from a gun safe

- 15 occurrences where a firearm was taken, the firearm was insecure at the time
- 14 occurrences where a firearm was taken, the firearm was in a vehicle

Where firearms were taken from a gun safe (82 occurrences):

- 21 occurrences were using the safe key
- 24 occurrences where the safe was cut/forced open
- 19 occurrences where the entire safe was taken

Some of the reasons given to police as to why the firearm was taken from a place other than the gun safe included:

- It was stolen from the back seat of a vehicle.
- The new gun didn't fit in the safe so was left beside the safe.
- They put the gun down when they were retrieving an animal or go on a quick walk and came back and it was gone.
- It was raining so they left it in the shed, unsecured.
- They left it in the hot water cupboard to dry.
- They forgot to put it in the safe.

Next steps: Te Tari Pūreke need to continue to get the message of gun safety and compliance out there, the next safety campaign will be covering safe storage.

The slides from this presentation will be shared with the Forum following this meeting so they can help educate their networks on the statistics and remind them of safe storage.

The Forum asked if the firearms were mostly targeted thefts or opportunistic. Te Tari Pūreke replied that the police event narrative didn't always disclose this but in some scenarios other items were taken and in others only the guns were taken. There are likely firearms thefts that were not reported.

The Forum asked if there are any statistics on the volume stolen link to use in other crimes. Te Tari Pūreke replied that was not in the scope of this project.

The Forum asked if there could be a specific charge or code used for Firearms theft to make it clearer when going through the data. Te Tari Pūreke replied that this would be an expensive exercise and require police training. This still may not result in accurate recording of theft data as there are multiple codes that could be used.

	<p>The Forum noted an advertisement campaign on firearm security was run in Australia which was very well done and well received.</p> <p>The Forum agreed that secure storage is not only about preventing thefts, it is about keeping kids and mentally unwell people away from firearms.</p> <p>The Forum noted that the message of storage and safety is still not reaching people, so, Te Tari Pūreke and Forum members need to promote it together. The culture has changed but there is still a long way to go.</p> <p>It is a generational change and Te Tari Pūreke and Forum members have to collectively work to raise awareness and requirements for security of firearms and ammunition at home and while transporting. It will be a multiyear journey to grow awareness and it is important we celebrate successes and encourage people to keep doing the right thing.</p> <p>There were no further comments or questions.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair to circulate the firearms theft deep dive slides to the Forum with narrative added.
Item 5	Arms Transformation Programme – Dealer transactions form improvements
Discussion	<p>Dealers are obligated to record some transactions according to Arms Regulations 1992, Part 2 Section 7. Te Tari Pūreke noted for the past year Firearms dealers have been recording transactions with firearms licence holders through the Dealer Transactions form. This information means we can make sure firearms licence holders are aware of the requirement to register their arms items. Following feedback received improvements have been made to streamline the form and make it easier to use. These changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamlining the design of the form - Removing unnecessary steps - Adding functionality to save dealer licence details (enter details once at start of each day) - Improving the arms item suggestions. - Improved support for a wider range of devices <p>The improvements are in development now and more feedback is being sought from those testing the changes. It is hoped it will be launched later this year.</p>

	<p>Forum members all agreed they are looking forward to seeing the changes. They noted Dealers also have an issue with the licence version number not being on the form, it either needs to be on the form or not needed online. Te Tari Pūreke replied, the version number is needed to prevent gun licence thefts but will look into adding the version number to the buyer form (permit to possess).</p> <p>The Forum asked for further details on licence fraud and how many people are caught each year. If it is a safety issue then shouldn't all licences have a version number not just the newer licences? This will be discussed offline.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into adding gun licence version number to the buyer form (permit to possess)
Item 6 Firearms Registry	
Discussion	<p>Te Tari Pūreke presented the progress made on the Registry and highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A lot of work has taken place with 80+ new staff, a new telephony system, registry email, 0800 number, MyFirearms digital channel for registration launched, 30+ new business processes and more. The team has worked very hard to bring this to life in the since the Registry went live. - 24% of all licence holders have registered or declared their arms and there have been over 104,000 registry interactions. - Slightly more people are choosing to register via the phone than online. - Improvements will be made to the online registration following feedback from users. - The automatic email sent to licence holders once they have had an activating circumstance has been made clearer. One of the items for clarification is that if you have no arms items you need to declare this. - Parties need to advise the registry as soon as practical but no later than 30 days following an activating event. - Calls are starting to increase due to the renewal bell curve. Renewing your firearms licence is an activating circumstance. - Calls are also increasing for general information and questions around licensing. - The privacy statement is being updated to say the caller has read it rather than agree to it. - The message when calling will ask callers to have their firearms licence details ready as well as the make model and serial number on hand. This will speed calls up.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When a firearm changes hand from one firearms licence holder both parties must call the number to transfer possession, this cannot be done online. - Dealers are unable to register items on a licence holders' behalf. If you buy from a dealer you need to register this online yourself. <p>The Forum had no further comments or questions.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send the Forum the automatic email that is sent when a person has an activating circumstance.
Item 7	Break and Karakia for Kai
Item 8	Ministry of Justice – Policy update
Discussion	<p>Ministry of Justice is currently working through the coalition agreement commitments to reform the Arms Act this parliamentary term. This work is being carried out through 4 phases. More information is available here: Government to overhaul firearms laws Beehive.govt.nz</p> <p>Phase 1 strengthens Firearm Prohibitions Orders, and this Bill was passed last week. More information is available here: Bill strengthening Firearm Prohibition Orders passes Beehive.govt.nz</p> <p>Phase 2 considers amending the regulatory requirements for clubs and ranges. The Minister is currently working through the proposals following the targeted consultation earlier in the year. She will introduce legislation in the coming months, where you will get the opportunity to provide further feedback as part of the Select Committee process.</p> <p>Phase 3 includes the review of the Firearms Registry. The terms of reference are available online. https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Review-of-the-Firearms-Registry-Terms-of-Reference.pdf. The Ministry of Justice thanked everyone that provided feedback. A report with the findings will be presented to the Minister before the end of the year.</p> <p>Phase 4 will review the entire Arms Act. This will be an extensive piece of work. The current legislation is outdated, and this review is long overdue. The Forum will be updated when there is more information available on next steps.</p> <p>There were no comments or questions from the Forum.</p>

Actions	No action items.
Item 9	NZ Police – Policy update
Discussion	<p>New Zealand Police is supporting MoJ with advice on the phases of their firearms work programme.</p> <p>There were no comments or questions.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 10	General business
Discussion	<p><u><i>Dealer Pānui</i></u></p> <p>The importance of dealers in the firearms community was raised. Dealers are a great source of information and a conduit to firearms licence holders. A formal dealer communication is in the final stages and will be called the ‘Dealer Pānui’. The content will cover a range of subjects including the modification of firearms and registration. This communication will be quarterly (provided there is sufficient information). Dealers will need to opt in to receive the Pānui and it will be available on the Te Tari Pūreke website under news and publications.</p> <p>https://www.firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz/news-and-publications/dealer-panui</p> <p><u><i>Sale of registered firearm back to the dealer</i></u></p> <p>The dealer still has the responsibility to enter the details into the dealer portal when a registered firearm is sold back to the dealer. Communications need to be clearer about the current processes for buyers of firearms where the purchase is a second-hand firearm from a dealer, as to whether it is a registration or transfer, so it is better understood and followed.</p> <p><u><i>Hunting Show in Rotorua</i></u></p> <p>At this show there was an attendee that could not read or write, and it raised the question of where there is an audio book for the Firearms Safety Code available. This is something for Te Tari Pūreke to consider.</p> <p><u><i>Museums and RSA’s</i></u></p> <p>Multiple workshops with different museums across the country have been held online and the criteria proposed for “<i>bona fide museum</i>” will be going through the New Zealand Police legal team. The Forum noted that having to renew your Dealer licence is a big cost for a charity and suggested a fee waiver for museums be considered when the Act is reviewed.</p>

	<p>Tari Pūreke have worked with the RSA National Office on how to safely display their arms and ammunition collections and advised that even arms that have been disabled must be registered. Te Tari Pūreke value the history behind these items but safety and security need to be the focus. Under current legislation a firearm that cannot fire or deemed “inoperable, deactivated, or innocuous” is still classed as a firearm and requires registration as the Arms Act does not recognise deactivated firearms.</p> <p><u>Vetters</u></p> <p>Some Forum members are concerned that inconsistent information is being disseminated by Te Tari Pūreke, particularly during vetting processes. Te Tari Pūreke noted this is something that will be continued to be worked on.</p> <p><u>Hunting Community</u></p> <p>Thermal imaging has been discussed by some Forum members with Te Tari Pūreke. It was raised to note the importance of not using a rifle mounted thermal imager for target identification as you are not able to always point your firearm in a safe direction. The Forum raised that hunters need to be educated on the risk of this and thermal imagers need to be restricted or there are going to be more deaths. Public safety is at stake, and this needs to be given priority. Te Tari Pūreke noted this feedback. A meeting of the Recreational Firearms Users Working Group will be held.</p> <p>There were no further items to be discussed.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair will send the Forum information on the processes for selling and transferring Firearms. • Consider how to make information accessible e.g. audio book. • Recreational Firearms Users Working Group to meet and discuss thermal imaging.
Item 11	Meeting closed
Discussion	The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.20 with a karakia.
Actions	No action items.

Actions

Agenda/ Action item	Agenda/ Action item	Agenda/ Action item	Agenda/ Action item	Agenda/ Action item
Meeting: 5 September 2024				
4. Firearms Theft Deep Dive	Circulate the presentation slides to the Forum with narrative added.	Chair	ASAP	
5. Arms Transformation Programme – Dealer transactions form improvements	Look into adding gun licence version number to the buyer form (permit to possess).	Te Tari Pūreke Operations		
6. Firearms Registry	Send the Forum the automatic email that is sent when a person has an activating circumstance.	Chair		
10. General business	Send the Forum a document on the exact processes for selling and transferring Firearms.	Chair		
10. General business	Consider how to make information accessible e.g. audio book.	Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships		
10. General business	Recreational Firearms Users Working Group to meet and discuss thermal imaging.	Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships		