

Meeting minutes

10 October 2024

Arms Engagement Group (AEG)

9:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting details

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9:30am – 12:30pm

In attendance

Te Tari Pūreke

Mike McIlraith – *Director Partnerships*

Ewan Kelsall – *Partnership Manager*

Lachlan Marshall – *Firearms Safety Manager*

Amanda Jongeneel – *Change Manager*

Emilia Steer – *Senior Partnerships Advisor (chair)*

Kendra Hill – *Senior Partnerships Advisor (minutes)*

Charlotte Etheridge – *Management Assistant and Coordinator*

Nopera Hauwaho – *Senior Partnerships Advisor – Iwi*

Tina Berkett – *Senior Advisor – Firearms Ecosystem & Performance*

Blair Schmidt – *Programme Manager*

Laura Munro – *Senior Service Designer*

Pete Baird – *Compliance & Resolutions Manager*

Mike Tarttelin – *Clubs & Ranges Manager*

New Zealand Police

Catherine Petrey – *Principal Strategic Advisor (NZ Police)*

Carolyn Read – *Senior Policy Advisor II (NZ Police)*

AEG members – online

Jarrold Gilbert – *Independent Research Solutions*

Maureen Gillon – *Royal New Zealand College of GPs*

Nik Green – *Gun Control NZ*

Edwina Hughes – *Peace Movement Aotearoa*

Susan Haniel – *Taituarā*

Pauline Gulliver – *Family Violence & Death Review Committee*

Ministry of Justice

Katie Gunatunga – *Senior Policy Advisor*

Rose Stainer

	<p>Other</p> <p>Alexander Gillespie Clementine Annabell</p>
Apologies	<p>Dr Justin Barry-Walsh – <i>The Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatrists</i></p> <p>Abdur Razzaq – <i>Federation of the Islamic Associations of NZ</i></p> <p>Dr John Kusel – <i>Royal New Zealand College of GPs</i></p> <p>Natalie Thorburn – <i>National Collective of Independent Women’s Refuges (Women’s Refuge)</i></p>

Item 1	Welcome, apologies, introduction of new members, processes, and meeting rules (Emilia Steer, Chair)
Discussion	The chair welcomed attendees and opened the meeting with a karakia. Apologies were noted. New members were introduced including the new Chair – Douglas Brett for 2025.
Actions	No action items.
Item 2	Confirm previous minutes and action points (Emilia Steer, Chair)
Discussion	<p>The group noted that the minutes from 9 May 2024 were confirmed via email as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>The Group discussed the actions from previous meetings (see Actions table on pages 16-17).</p> <p>Current action closed and new action point opened (see Actions table on pages 16-17).</p>
Actions	AEG will receive ongoing reports regarding health practitioner notifications to ensure relevant updates and visibility on this matter.
Item 3	Partnerships updates (Ewan Kelsall, Manager Partnerships)
Discussion	Museums guidance document

AEG were informed of the co-creation of the museums guidance document to help museums meet their regulatory requirements and ensure consistency across the sector. The document is being developed with input from museum stakeholders to ensure it is practical, aligns with the museum sector, firearms regulatory needs, and reflects current best practice. As this piece of work remains ongoing the museum sector has been encouraged to provide ongoing feedback to ensure the guidance remains relevant and effective.

Auctions guidance document

AEG were briefed on the development of a Firearms Auctions guidance document aimed at establishing a consistent approach for running firearms auctions across the country. This document will provide clear information to ensure all participants are aware of the requirements and can remain compliant with relevant regulations. Stakeholder input is being incorporated to ensure the guidance meets practical needs and supports relevant legislation and regulations.

Pistol endorsement obligations guidance

AEG were informed about the new Pistol Endorsement Obligations workbook designed to help individuals new to pistol shooting understand their legal obligations and prepare for the required exam before applying for an endorsement to possess and use pistols for target shooting. The workbook covers the legal responsibilities that a probationary club member must understand. Club probationary members must also learn how to safely possess and use pistols before taking the examination. The examination tests understanding of safe use, safe possession, range rules and legal obligations.

The workbook will serve as a comprehensive resource for all pistol shooting endorsement related legal obligations.

Storage and transport guide update

Te Tari Pūreke get a lot of questions regarding firearms storage compliance. A security display has been built and is used at events to practically demonstrate how to comply with firearms storage requirements. This display has proven to be an effective talking point, with positive feedback received at various events. Additionally, Te Tari Pūreke is in the process of updating the secure firearms storage and transportation

document, which is one of the most accessed resources on our website. The update aims to clarify requirements.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/storage-and-transportation-firearms-and-ammunition>

Firearms and Health pamphlet

When engaging with the community, we often encounter questions and misinformation regarding firearms and licence holder health. The *Health and Firearms* pamphlet is intended for firearms licence holders, their friends, and family/ whānau. The intent is to provide high-level information with links to more detailed resources, ensuring clarity and accessibility. We have collaborated with people from the medical fraternity, firearms licence holder and non-firearms licence holder communities to ensure the content addresses common concerns and is relevant for all audiences. We intend for this collateral to be available in November.

Thermal imagers

The Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF) has raised the increasing use of thermal imaging devices, both handheld and rifle mounted, as an emerging risk. These devices, which detect heat signatures instead of relying on normal optics that magnify, are becoming more accessible due to reducing cost and improving technology. While they can be effective in certain landscapes for spotting animals not visible to the naked eye, safety concerns have been raised, particularly regarding their use on private and public land during the hours of darkness. The Department of Conservation (DOC) has recently updated their hunting permits to allow the use of handheld models to locate animals.

The primary concern is that thermal imaging devices are not suitable for target identification, and users do not always see what is beyond their target, creating potential safety risks. The FCAF group discussed the need to review and improve current safety advice related to hunting in low-light conditions, with a focus on providing clearer guidance to help mitigate these risks. We will now work with stakeholders and partners to understand the risk more and what our collective next steps will be.

DOC Goat Hunting Competition

The first [DOC National Wild Goat Hunting Competition](#), held in 2023, was a success and is being run again from August to November 2024. Our involvement last year focused heavily on safety, and we are again participating this year. As part of the steering and working groups, we are using this opportunity to promote safety messaging and remind participants of their compliance obligations.

Sika Show – NZ Hunting & Outdoor Expo 2024

We attended the [Sika Show](#) last year and will be present again this year on November 2–3rd. This event provides a valuable opportunity to engage with the firearms community, promote safety messaging, and address any questions or concerns directly with the attendees.

Firearms security advertising campaign

We are currently developing our next safety advertising campaign, focused on reminding firearm licence holders about the importance of secure storage when firearms are not in use, emphasising the need to always store them in a safe. The campaign will be rolled out before Christmas across various channels, including print, radio, and online. Last year, we ran a pre-Christmas campaign highlighting airgun regulations, including who can use and purchase them and safe storage practices. We plan to run a similar airgun campaign this year.

ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS

Does the health and wellbeing pamphlet cover family violence?

The pamphlet does not specifically address family violence but includes information for those who may have concerns about licence holders. It provides contact details for various situations, ensuring people know where to seek help or guidance.

Is the health and wellbeing pamphlet a new initiative?

While information about the health and wellbeing of licence holders has long been available on our website, the physical pamphlet is a new initiative. We aim to have the first print run ready by the start of November 2024. The pamphlet will be shared with the AEG group, noting that some members were involved in the review process, and we will seek additional feedback.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/health-and-wellbeing>

Actions	Share the health and wellbeing pamphlet with AEG.
Item 4	Māori Partnerships Group Updates (Nopera Hauwaho, Senior Partnerships Advisor Iwi)
Discussion	<p>Education and outreach</p> <p>We continuously work to reach and educate our community in many ways, including (but not exclusive to):</p> <p><u>Whakatūpatō course – firearms safety courses and licensing for isolated communities</u></p> <p>We are grounded in the principles of Te Tiriti and Te Ao Māori to support better outcomes for Māori and all our communities. Whakatūpatō enables us to achieve this outcome for some of our firearms users, and further develop these relationships into Partnerships.</p> <p><u>Maori Firearms Forum</u></p> <p>In November we are launching the first Māori Firearms Forum (MFF) gathering in Rotorua to initiate this kaupapa (portfolio). The purpose of the MFF is to have a group that represents Māori views on firearms possession, safe use, firearms licensing, and any other firearms related topics. It will help Te Tari Pūreke to meet community needs and expectations and will support what good engagement looks like with Māori communities. Our members range from Iwi, hapu representatives, members from professions within the Māori firearms community, hunters and shooters.</p> <p><u>Revised Firearms Safety Code in both English and Te Reo Māori</u></p> <p>We have partnered with the Department of Internal Affairs for a revised version of the Firearms Safety Code. We have a Te Reo Māori translation that supports our work to reach and educate our communities – particularly our reo Māori speaking firearms community.</p> <p><u>NZQA – Level 2: 3 Credits</u></p> <p>To support our work to reach and to educate our communities around the safe use of firearms, we have developed a NZQA accredited skills standard. This will sit at NCEA level 2 and is worth 3 credits. This will support us in contribute to safer communities. Relevant organisations will apply to be able to teach the content required for the standard, however Te Tari Pūreke will always hold the responsibility for the assessment of the standard.</p>

	<p><u>Internal Capability – Te Ao Māori</u></p> <p>Part of the Maori Partnerships Group’s role is enabling our staff with tools they need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) support Māori in our Firearms Community, and 2) enhance their clinical practice. To support our vetters in a māori context looks like providing Vettors with accessible guidelines that ensure they go into their communities with as much of a heads up as possible – cultural safety. This is not to say, they must complete a te reo 101 course to be a vetter, rather, if your engaging in a community of te reo māori speakers, here are some guidelines to enhance your engagement – capability uplift. This approach is our way of expressing our Regulatory Principles – Manaakitanga, Whakapono, Whanaungatanga. <p>For us at Te Tari Pūreke, it doesn’t mean we need to have a Māori Framework that is exclusive of the business, rather, a joint effort in making sure whatever framework we do land on has had it’s due diligence. Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, and Whakapono are our principles – it is the responsibility of the Māori Partnerships Group to ensure it is fit for purpose across the business.</p> <p>ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS</p> <p>The government has signalled a rewrite of the Arms Act, and this will be led by the Ministry of Justice. Can we use the Maori Advisory Forum be a group that we can go to for feedback as we are working on this? (NZ Police Policy)</p> <p>Yes.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 5	Firearms safety engagement and education strategy review (Lachlan Marshall, Firearms Safety Manager Partnerships & Amanda Jongeneel, Change Manager)
Discussion	<p>We’re reviewing our firearms safety engagement and education strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging and educating the licensed community and the wider New Zealand public are critical priorities. • Developing Community outreach and engagement is an opportunity for us: we want to have flexible, consistent services that can respond to demands from communities, or where requirements of iwi and Māori are met.

- Since 2017 and more formally in 2023 and 2024 we have heard from Mountain Safety Council about improvements that could be made to the firearms safety training system. We are taking that feedback and considering how we can better develop firearms engagement and education.

The phased approach to engagement and education developments was shared with the Group.

What we'd like AEG to consider:

- The communities of New Zealand expect effective regulator service that will contribute to improved firearms safety outcomes.
- What are your thoughts on how we, and the firearms community, might evolve firearms safety training to be the best in the world?
- What are your thoughts on how we, and the firearms community, might better engage with the wider community:
 - in general,
 - in hard to reach/rural places,
 - with school aged children
 - Across other demographics e.g. social, economic, etc.
- Suggestions will be incorporated into our planning as we look at how we can evolve safety outcomes for New Zealanders and increase the community's trust and confidence in us.

Feedback opportunity extends beyond the AEG meeting and is invited by email to amanda.jongeneel2@police.govt.nz .

ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS

Can information be provided to the group about the current landscape, to assist in giving feedback?

Yes.

Will information be provided for non-firearms users who don't know what safe use looks like? So, they can identify safe firearms use?

Yes, that is within the scope of the work.

It would be useful to engage with private land holders.

There is a wider piece of work about land access. This is a broad piece of work that is in its early stages.

	<p>As a front-line provider general practice teams in rural communities and Rural Hospitals would benefit from specific contact and/or webinars. In the urban areas general practice and after hours might need different advice, education.</p> <p>Acknowledged - conscience of this in our work and workstreams.</p>
Actions	<p>Provide details to AEG about the firearms safety engagement and education strategy review and how to provide feedback.</p>
Item 6	<p>Firearm burglaries/thefts (Tina Berkett, Senior Advisor Firearms Systems Performance)</p>
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 firearm was taken/attempted to be taken in 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 <p>Where firearms were taken from a gun safe (82 occurrences):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 occurrences were using the safe key • 24 occurrences where the safe was cut/forced open • 19 occurrences where the entire safe was taken <p>Some of the reasons given to police as to why the firearm was taken from a place other than the gun safe included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 group following this meeting so they can help educate their networks on the statistics and remind them of safe storage.

ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS

Do we have information about properties e.g. renting or homeowner?

Previously there was some work done in this space with FCAF and suggestions will be noted in the minutes.

Generally, in conversations that have been had with landlords, we heard that landlords are happy for the storage requirements to be met (i.e. bolts into floors and walls), if the renter leaves the house in the state they came in.

Note, a firearms licence holder is required to meet their secure storage requirements as part of obtaining or maintaining their firearms licence.

What is the urban/rural split between theft?

When looking at the information there was a correlation with the number of firearms stolen in a region with the number of licence holders. We did not look at the types of firearms stolen as part of this research. Note, if there is no complaint of theft to NZ Police, there is no record of theft. For example, if Police uncover a firearm in a search but the firearm was not reported as stolen, there is no charge of theft, but the person is in unlawful possession.

Amazing piece of research, is there any looking at trends on previous time periods?

	<p>Because of the way the research has been done, and the data accessibility (i.e. there was a large amount of manual work done), we don't have the previous trends, but we intend to look at this going forward.</p> <p>Another line of thinking in this is understanding the motivation of the burglary. You cannot always obtain this information from the offender.</p> <p>Do we have information about the different types of firearms used in a crime?</p> <p>No, this was not part of this research.</p> <p>Do we have a benchmark for this piece of work?</p> <p>We didn't have a benchmark; this is the benchmark.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 7	Assisted Registration (Blair Schmidt, Project Manager)
Discussion	<p>The assisted registration is a service which provides firearms licence holders with large collections (50+ firearms and arms items) an easy and secure way to register their items. This additional channel is designed to assist individuals in managing the registration process more effectively.</p> <p>The service was created to address the time-consuming process that licence holders with large numbers of firearms and other arms items face when registering over the phone or when using MyFirearms. After listening to feedback from stakeholders and individual licence holders, the service was designed to make the registration process easier and faster. The assisted registration solution went live on May 22, 2024.</p> <p>Channels for registration now include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online: The licence holder uses MyFirearms. 2. Phone: Call the Firearms Registry and Services team. 3. Assisted Registration: The licence holder uploads a file via secure service. <p>Note: We are strongly encouraging the licence holder to have a validated MyFirearms account so they can access and view their records online.</p> <p>ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS</p>

	No comments.
Actions	No action items.
Item 8	Dealer Transaction Form (Laura Munro, Senior Service Designer)
Discussion	<p>Dealers are required to record transactions with customers in line with the Arms Act, Section 12, using the Dealer Transactions Form. This ensures that firearms licence holders are aware of their obligation to register their arms items. Based on feedback from dealers, improvements are being made to the form to make it easier and quicker to use. These enhancements aim to streamline the process without the need for additional training for dealers or their staff.</p> <p>ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS</p> <p>In conversation with the Dealers, did they say that they advised the customer that the details would be provided to Te Tari Pūreke? Dealers did not say whether they advised customers or not.</p> <p>Did Dealers remind customers that if they have an activating circumstance, they need to put information in about all their firearms and parts into the registry?</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke is putting information out through a range of channels e.g. Firearms Community Advisory Forum, Dealer Pānui (newsletter) and Facebook to remind firearms licence holders of their obligations.</p> <p>How many dealers are there? There are just over 400 dealer licence and there are some employees additional to that.</p> <p>Some research we have done shows that around half of all dealers are working in a retail environment rather than wholesale or gunsmiths.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 9	Research Project (Al Gillespie & Clementine Annabell – AEG)
Discussion	<p>Improving the safety of all New Zealanders with the rewrite of the Arms Act</p> <p>The idea: a comparison-based approach of firearms regulation.</p> <p>Exploring six focus areas:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide • Extremism • Crime • Emerging technology • Education • Advertising (what to do and what not to do) <p>They are conducting research in 10 countries, including New Zealand, focusing on the above six key areas. The goal is to gather factual evidence on how other countries have addressed similar issues through their legislation. This evidence-based approach will help to assess whether these solutions could be applicable to New Zealand. The idea is to inform New Zealand’s processes and opportunities with evidence from other countries. Want to support and benefit the rewrite of the Arms Act in New Zealand.</p> <p>ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS</p> <p>It was suggested that AEG members who have international connections to share these.</p> <p>Are you looking at homicide and suicide links? To date, we have not looked at this. We will take that back for discussion.</p>
Actions	Meeting attendees to share contacts or relationships with Alexander and Clementine that could be beneficial for the research.
Item 10	NZ Police – Policy Update (Catherine Petrey & Carolyn Read)
Discussion	<p>New Zealand Police is supporting Ministry of Justice with advice on the phases of their firearms work programme.</p> <p>They are responding as much as possible and as quickly as possible. They are also supporting education of Officials about the environment that is being regulated.</p> <p>The Clubs and Ranges Amendment Bill is currently open for submissions and before Select Committee.</p> <p>There has been a review of the Firearms Registry, and the draft report will be going back shortly.</p>

	<p>ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS</p> <p>Are you anticipating the Registry will be shut down? That is a question for Ministry of Justice. Ministry of Justice may not be able to answer as it is a political matter.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>No action items.</p>
<p>Item 11</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice – Policy Update (Katie Gunatunga & Rose Stainer)</p>
<p>Discussion</p>	<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 earlier in the year. 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. It is currently open for submissions.</p> <p>The key changes are it seeks to create a distinction between pistol clubs and ranges and non-pistol clubs and ranges. The pistol clubs and ranges requirements will remain largely the same. The non-pistol clubs and ranges will be changed to enrolment instead, and there will be some changes to incorporation requirements for those that sell ammunition. Temporary non-pistol ranges will need to contact the Firearms Safety Authority and the intent would be for only two days a year. There are also suggested changes to inspections, these would be done at renewal or if circumstances change. When these inspections happen, the regulator would only be able to take away hard copy documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet paper on changes with Ministry’s Regulatory Impact Statement: Proactive-release-Firearms-tranche-2_FINAL.pdf (justice.govt.nz) • Minister’s press release discussing key changes: Clubs and Ranges Bill passes first reading Beehive.govt.nz

- Justice Committee page – submissions closing on 29 October:
[Arms \(Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters\) Amendment Bill – New Zealand Parliament \(www.parliament.nz\)](#)
- The draft bill: [Arms \(Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters\) Amendment Bill 85-1 \(2024\), Government Bill Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

Phase 3 includes the review of the Firearms Registry. The terms of reference are available online. 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.

[https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Review-of-the-Firearms-Registry-Terms-of-Reference.pdf.](https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Review-of-the-Firearms-Registry-Terms-of-Reference.pdf)

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 Group will be updated when there is more information available on next steps. The expectation is that the rewrite would be passed before the end of the parliamentary term.

ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS

Some of the changes have already been made before legislation was introduced, could you please explain?

Reporting requirement was a short-term change that was done to get in before end of financial year and was intended as short-term change. You can submit on the clubs and ranges changes currently as part of the Select Committee process.

What was the rationale for removing the ability for inspectors to not be able to only take away hard copies and having notice period on inspections?

It was about providing certainty of when inspections would be, as we understand many clubs have volunteers. The hard copies are about certainty.

What are the changes for local government?

No changes for local government.

	<p>What is the MOJ expectation on a one-use range?</p> <p>This would be disciplines for non-pistol ranges that currently exist. One-use is one event.</p> <p>Can you please explain where the intent of having a non-certified range, for one off, events was generated from, for example, was it smallbore or centrefire long distance events?</p> <p>I understand it was from a range of people that wanted to hold events. Current regulations were stopping them from running these events.</p> <p><i>Comment by TTP – it’s important to understand the different types of shooting events that could happen, and the risks involved differ with each. The current hurdles for range operators could be local council consents.</i></p> <p>The ability to inspect on re-enrolments, change of circumstance, extreme weather events or if a safety concern is raised, what is the re-enrolment period?</p> <p>Five years.</p> <p>What safety assessments will be done for one-use ranges?</p> <p>The intent is to remove the administrative burden. The person administrating/setting up the needs to notify the regulator. Range standing orders need to be adhered to if it is a club run event.</p> <p>What if it isn’t a club running the event?</p> <p>The Bill currently says Club, so a Club can set up a one-off event. We will see the outcomes after the Select Committee process.</p> <p>Are you anticipating that the Registry will be shut down?</p> <p>We cannot comment on this.</p> <p>Is there an obligation to report concerning behaviour in any of this work?</p> <p>That is not specifically in there.</p> <p>If there are safety concerns about a club or range, would 7 days’ notice still be required for an inspection?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
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	<i>Comment by TTP –Recent history indicates that we find these when we inspect shooting ranges but we have not received any reports about concerns for people or the range safety by range operators or users.</i>
Actions	Send relevant links and information to AEG about the work programme.
Item 12	Clubs and Ranges (Pete Baird & Mike Tartellin)
Discussion	<p>Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are aware of 1295 active ranges across the country. • Ranges may be a single range with multiple firing points, or a group of ranges, known as a range complex. • Ranges can be anything from a smallbore range (long shed with suitable bullet catch at one end), a clay (shotgun) range in a paddock, a private business offering shooting activity for a profit, to a long-distance range covering several kilometres. • Currently the recognition of a range shooting activity starts with a process of application, examination on paper by the regulator, certification (ballistic only) followed by an inspection regime on the ground during the certification to validate the paper application. • The regulator currently can enter a range complex having given 7 days' notice and inspect the range against the original application. • Where the range is not meeting the certified standard, the regulator applies the principals of engage, educate, encourage, and enforce with a focus on those activities that may present the greatest public safety risks. • An Improvement Notice is the recording tool for issues. • We have not shut down ranges where improvement notices are being worked through. • We are working with ranges to encourage them to meet the standards so they can continue to operate. <p>A map of range locations in NZ was shown to the group. Images/examples of rifle/pistol, gallery (rifle), shotgun (down the line) and smallbore indoor ranges were shown to the group.</p> <p>Range structure and features were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firing point/line • Range floor/range axis • Side berms/walls • Target line

- Bullet catcher
- Backstop.

For note, there are 230,000 firearms licence holders. 40,000 of these licence holders might be active target shooters who would use ranges. Not all firearms licence holders or users would need to use a range. Most hunters will use private or Department of Conservation land and learn how to hunt and gather from other licence holders i.e. parents, grandparents, or other members of the whanau.

ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS

What is black powder?

A black powder gun is any firearm that uses traditional gunpowder, aka black powder, as the propellant charge.

What do you think are the biggest foreseeable risks of the proposed changes to clubs and ranges?

Significant time and input from various shooting disciplines in developing the [Shooting Range Manual](#), which is internationally recognised. The current proposals, however, do not formally recognise this document as a standard for ballistic shooting.

[The Shooting Range Standing Orders](#) play an important role in ensuring ranges operate consistently and safely. The proposals lack provisions for regular inspection and regulation of ranges, which could lead to missed opportunities for identifying maintenance needs. Recent inspections have shown that, even when operators indicate their ranges are fit for purpose, issues can still be identified. A risk-based inspection regime could help ensure that all types of ranges are maintained to high safety standards.

The current proposals rely on self-regulation by range operators. While many operators maintain high standards, ensuring consistency across all ranges is key to mitigating risk. Self-regulation may result in variations in standards between operators or disciplines, which could impact safety for the wider community

The shooting range standards, as detailed in the [NZ Police Shooting Range Manual](#), were developed collaboratively by **all shooting range disciplines**. Recently, there has been interest in creating individual manuals by some

	<p>disciplines, offering an alternative approach to inspections and safety standards.</p> <p>The proposed legislation places the responsibility for ensuring range quality and safety with local authorities, which may not always have the expertise in ballistic safety to verify compliance with both shooting standards and the Resource Management Act (RMA).</p> <p>Finally, there is the potential for public events, such as school galas or long-distance shooting events, to be conducted without regulatory oversight. Ensuring these events have proper approvals and safety measures in place is critical to public safety.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 13	General business
Discussion	<p>ARMS ENGAGEMENT GROUP COMMENTS</p> <p>Increasing the frequency of the AEG meetings for 2025.</p>
Actions	Meeting dates for 2025 to be sent to AEG.
Meeting close	

Actions				
Agenda/ Action item	Action	Person responsible	Due date	Status
Meeting:				
	Provide the report on actions taken because of notifications from Health Practitioners to the Royal NZ College of GPs to assist in the feedback loop on patient information.	Kendra H.	No due date.	CLOSED. We have provided the report on notifications we have received 08/10/24. We will continue to work on education opportunities across the health sector.
Meeting: 10/10/2024				
	Provide ongoing reporting to AEG about notifications Te Tari Pūreke receives from health practitioners.	Kendra H.	Next AEG meeting.	
	Share the health and wellbeing pamphlet with AEG.	Emilia S.	Complete 11/10/24	
	Provide details to AEG about the firearms safety engagement and education strategy review and how to provide feedback.	Emilia S.	Complete 11/10/24	

	Meeting attendees to share contacts or relationships with Alexander and Clementine that could be beneficial for the research.	AEG.	No date.	CLOSED. Does not require further action.
	Send relevant links and information to AEG about the work programme.	MOJ / Emilia S.	In minutes	
	Meeting dates for 2025 to be sent to AEG.	Emilia S.		