



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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NRANZ Newsletter **Police Firearms Fees Proposals**

Colfo have now released their “paint by numbers” document to help you make a submission. You can use the Police form direct from the website but in many parts it is designed to get the answers that Police want. Be careful with their use of percentages.

The Police proposals are a major lift in the fees that are being charged for owning and using firearms.

You need to make your submission using the question numbers as references for your replies.

Do not feel put off by the sheer volume of material. If you only want to submit on a number of the questions / proposals, feel free to do so.

Use your own words and use personal examples if it will help explain your reasons and logic.

The Regulations have all been passed so your submission can only deal with the costs that Police wish to impose on us. As much as all of this makes you angry, please be logical and considered in your submission.

For a start I would recommend reading the reasoning behind the fees and their logic in setting the fees where they have. This is only a few pages of the Police document and is all contained in Section 2. You, like me, will probably not find it difficult to disagree with parts of their reasoning and logic.

To the Questions.

Question 1

New licence training course fees.

Getting a firearms licence should be encouraged and supported.

The fee should be no more than 25% of the Police proposal.

There is a nonsense statement in section 2.6 which says that “subsidies can result in excess demand”.

When it comes to firearms, surely anyone that has access to, has, or wants to use a firearm should be encouraged to get a FAL. There is no such thing as excess demand when it comes to a FAL.

Question 2

The big hip pocket one. Fee for your actual licence or renewal. Full charge for 10 years is about \$1000.

Set fee at maximum of 25% cost recovery as any higher level will encourage or financially force non-compliance especially amongst the more casual users.

Question 3

Yes to a payment schedule if the fee cannot be paid up front.

Question 5

Discount for early application to renew. Proposes 10% but should be 25% to encourage police efficiency and promote renewal in a timely manner.

Question 6

Dealers licence fees.

No to full cost recovery.

Suggestion – separate retail dealers from Gunsmiths for fees based on the principal source of income, ie dealer or gunsmith.

Question 7

Dealers/gunsmith fees should be lower for renewal of licence where there is no change.

The whole section, Questions 6 -7 is based on the premise of a commercial business such as a retailer or wholesaler being the dealer. Unfortunately, the new regulations now classify a gunsmith as a dealer.

Dealers licence fee proposals are between \$2000 and \$2500 and are required to be renewed every year. I have very real concerns here and have had conversations with some of the gunsmiths that fit our barrels, and have other specialist skills, that are considering quitting based on these charges.

Gunsmiths often have a machinist or similar background, have a small workshop at home, and have a lot of valuable technical knowledge. Gunsmiths often fit suppressors and fix firearms that have function problems, and often for commercial dealers that are only retailers with limited other skills. If these people quit gunsmithing, we may not be able to get barrels fitted. More rifles will be used for hunting without suppressors, so more hearing damage. More firearms with function issues will not get restored to a safe operating condition.

Rifles with worn barrels are not accurate, so more wounded animals. No suppressors equals more hearing damage to users. Malfunctioning firearms represent a risk to the user and others.

We all need gunsmiths, so do police, and there is a large public safety component in having them in the smaller centres, and not just available in the major cities. These fee proposals have already got them considering quitting.

Question 13

Visitors Licence fees. Proposal \$420-\$470.

First the nonsense statement at the start. In Advantages they state “the fee is unlikely to deter people from visiting New Zealand for sporting events or recreational hunting”, the Tui ad comes to mind.

This needs to be also considered with Questions 32-34.

Typically we get charged about 10 to 15% of this figure to go to Australia. Some other

countries are free or a low fee. NZ is trying to encourage tourism, this will do a lot to stop it and affect our chances to hold international events here.

Questions 32 – 34

Firearm Import and Ammunition Import fees. \$420-\$470 for each permit.

As with the dealer's stuff, all police quote in their guidelines is the overall numbers. Firearm numbers average 10 per permit. Ammunition import fees average 100's of thousands of rounds per permit.

The whole process ignores the traveller that has a personal firearm for competition or hunting and the ammunition that goes with it.

For an Aussie to come here with their target rifle and enough rounds of handloaded ammunition for that firearm would cost about \$900 plus the visitors permit as mentioned before, total \$1350.

Makes a mockery of the quote at the start.

Answer Question 32

No to full charge, especially for individuals with personal equipment.

Question 33

Differentiate between commercial and personal equipment carried as baggage.

Support sport and recreation.

NZ residents returning with firearm taken out of the country, minimal fee, certainly not \$420-\$470.

Question 34

No to full cost of Ammunition Import fee. (We have always been able to bring ammunition home with us but will now need a permit even if just a few left over rounds). When flying you can carry up to 5kg, which is about 180 rounds 308, in your checked baggage.

Suggestion answer. As above, differentiate between commercial and the competition or recreational shooter returning with some left-over ammunition for competition.

That has covered off the main questions from the NRANZ perspective and the ones that worry me the most when it comes to the future of the sport, especially the gunsmith aspect and the traveller's charges. For our NZ Team going to South Africa in 2024 it could add at least \$450 each to the cost of travel, just to get our rifles home.

It looks at time as if it is heavy going but please take the time to make a submission.

Use the Colfo "paint by numbers" as this is meant to go with that to help put our slant on things.

It could save you \$100's and potentially \$1000's if we get enough responses and get these proposals reduced to sensible levels.

One last thought as it is at the root of it all.

Police at the behest of Government have rewritten the firearms Legislation and then the Regulations since 2019. The Government have happily rubber stamped it all.

Police are also charged with enforcing these Regulations.

Police have now set up a "Business Unit" to carry out the functions and processes which

they have designed, written and established.

Police are now setting the charges which they need to run their “business unit”, and to look after the 450ish staff which they intend to employ to manage the firearm laws and functions.

They talk about efficiency of delivery all the time and yet with all the functions that they have, they have a monopoly, so no competition to judge themselves against to test their efficiency.

Finally, this is a system built by civil servants, run by civil servants, and priced by civil servants.

In all my years of working for myself, which is now about 45, I have never met a civil servant that truly understood how to do anything efficiently, let alone run a business.

And I haven't changed my mind through all the firearms law changes and especially with these proposals.

Malcolm Dodson
NRANZ President.