



Our Reference: 15/3028/17

28 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 6 March 2018. Your request was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically requested:

*How many AR-15 pattern/style firearms are currently registered as MSSAs in New Zealand? This includes all manufacturers not limited to*

- *Aero Precision*
- *Anderson Manufacturing*
- *Bushmaster*
- *Colt*
- *DPMS*
- *and others*

AR-15 is a style/body type of a rifle, and Police does not record style of firearms, only make and model. As you are no doubt aware, following the COLT AR-15 patent expiring in 1977, many firearms manufacturers developed their own AR-15 lookalikes and other firearms based on the AR-15 style/body type.

In order to attempt to answer your request, we have examined the names of makes and models of all currently owned MSSAs and determined whether it is an AR-15 style firearm based on the term AR15 or similar being included in the name. Some others were included where the body type is known (eg, Armi Jager M74). The resultant number is unlikely to be a full list.

Based on this approach, Police identified 3,426 firearms that met the above search criteria recorded as MSSAs owned by current firearms licence holders.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have a right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely

  
Mike McIlraith  
Acting Superintendent  
Arms Act Service Delivery Group