

29 February 2016

Ranjani Ponnuchetty

RanjaniPonnuchetty@mediaworks.co.nz

Dear Ranjani Ponnuchetty

On the 9th February 2016, you requested under the Official Information Act 1982 the following information about the amount of firearms training members of the NZ Police receive:

- *How many hours of firearms training do students get while they are at Police College?*
- *How many hours of firearms training do front line police officers get when they graduate and do they receive different types of training for the use of a Bushmaster rifle and a pistol? And how many rounds do front line police officers fire per year after they graduate for training purposes?*
- *How many hours of firearms training do the Special Tactics Group and AOS do during their induction?*
- *How many rounds do the Special Tactics Group and AOS have to fire per year after they're inducted to keep up their training?*
- *As part of firearms training with NZ Police what psychological training do officers get in terms of police shootings especially a fatal shooting?*

I shall respond to each of your questions in turn:

How many hours of firearms training do students get while they are at Police College?

Police recruits receive 80 hours of firearms training whilst at the Royal New Zealand Police College.

How many hours of firearms training do front line police officers get when they graduate and do they receive different types of training for the use of a Bushmaster rifle and a pistol? And how many rounds do front line police officers fire per year after they graduate for training purposes?

Level 1 responders (the majority of front line policing roles) receive 8 hours of firearms tactics, and 8 hours of live fire training every year. The live fire component includes weapons drills and skills, FX, simulator training, and live fire. This training involves firing approximately 43 Glock rounds, and 49 Bushmaster rounds. In addition, Level 1 responders receive a further 8 hours of firearms related training through eLearning, which tests knowledge on weapons systems, policy, procedure, and legislative requirements.

POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

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Safer Communities Together

Level 2 responders receive 3.5 hours of firearms training per year. The live fire component of this training involves Glock pistol only, and includes firing approximately 43 rounds. Level 2 responders also complete simulator training and eLearning which tests knowledge around weapons systems, policy, and legislative requirements.

How many hours of firearms training do the Special Tactics Group and AOS do during their induction?

Both the Special Tactics Group (STG) and AOS complete a four week induction course. The majority of the course content centres on firearms use, weapon handling and decision making. Each course contains 24 hours of specific marksmanship training (weapons handling).

How many rounds do the Special Tactics Group and AOS have to fire per year after they're inducted to keep up their training?

STG have no mandated minimum number of training rounds they must fire each year. There are variations between each centre, but as a general guide, the STG complete 6 to 8 hours of training per week. This training includes national and international training courses.

Similarly, AOS do not have a mandated number of rounds to fire each year. Members must complete annual qualifications on the Bushmaster rifle and Glock pistol. In addition, some members complete additional firing on the marksman rifle and the 40mm launcher.

As part of firearms training with NZ Police what psychological training do officers get in terms of police shootings especially a fatal shooting?

There is no specific psychological training provided to police officers in terms of police shootings. Following a critical incident, however, there is a required mandatory referral for psychological assessment and support made via police welfare officers. A fatal shooting is considered a critical incident for this purpose, and a police employee must undergo a one-on-one assessment and debrief with a psychologist before being cleared fit to return to duties. Police officers can, on a voluntary basis, access Police psychological and welfare services as needed.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Chris Scahill

National Manager: Response and Operations