

Proactive Release

Date: 19 August 2019

The following Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Additional item: Export controls: Semi-Automatic Firearms

(CAB-19-MIN-0160 refers)

[© Crown Copyright, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Additional Item: Export Controls: Semi-Automatic Firearms

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 8 April 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the export of firearms is regulated through the New Zealand export controls regime under the Customs and Excise Act 2018, which is administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT);
- 2 **noted** that the approval of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade is needed to export semi-automatic firearms and accessories;
- 3 **noted** that it is proposed that the changes to the law governing semi-automatic firearms, magazines and parts, to be given effect to by the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Bill, be reflected in New Zealand's policy on the export of such items;
- 4 **noted** the possibility that some owners of semi-automatic firearms, magazines and parts may seek to export them as an alternative to the amnesty and buy-back initiative;
- 5 **noted** that MFAT proposes that the criteria used to assess export applications be amended so that the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade will not approve exports of "items which are prohibited under New Zealand law" or which are "prejudicial to New Zealand's international relations", subject to specified exceptions;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister of Foreign Affairs intends to refer the proposal to the group of Ministers with Power to Act in regards to the Arms Act proposals and buy-back initiative [CAB-19-MIN-0105], and the Minister of Customs, for their concurrence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs