

AFFIDAVIT

Affidavit of person who obtained unsought access to third party personal information through the prohibited firearm online notification system

I, [REDACTED] affirm:

1. I am a licensed firearms owner and have had firearms and parts that became prohibited after the law changes earlier this year.
2. Soon after the online notification system was publicised, I set myself up on it to notify Police of what I was being required to hand in. I started early because I had a number of firearms and I wanted to find out early how much I was likely to be paid and whether it was above or below what I thought they were worth.
3. Before the recent changes in gun law, I was weeks away [REDACTED] and the Police told me verbally over the phone that I had been approved for a gun dealer licence (which would have been needed [REDACTED] but I never received any formal confirmation of this. I did not receive any card or other info that tells me I am a licensed dealer. I have not sold any guns nor [REDACTED]. As far as I know, there was nothing about my log-ins to the notification system that would have classed me as a dealer.
4. The notification system was not hard to use. To log-in, I just put in my email address and the password I had chosen. From there, you can look at the status of your notifications and enter details of new ones.
5. I accessed the system a number of times, mostly to add items. As I found items that were prohibited or realized that the prohibitions went so much wider than MSSA centre-fire semi-automatics, I put the details of each additional prohibited item into the system.
6. Adding information was not complicated, just slow. When the page opens, there are several choice buttons. To register a new item, you just press 'new notification' or something like that. I would recognise it easily if the system was still up and running but without looking at it to remind myself, I can't say for certain exactly what I did each time to add items or find information.
7. I attended a local buy-back session and handed over most/all items that I believe I the Police want to confiscate. [REDACTED]
8. Around 28 or 29 November 2019, I logged into the system because I wanted to see if the compensation for my most valuable item had been processed. The system indicates the progress status of each notified item. That particular firearm is uncommon in New Zealand and I was keen to know how they were getting on with the valuation and when I could expect to be paid.
9. I cannot remember whether it was Thursday or Friday or even the time. It is the busiest time of our year [REDACTED] and we have been operating with a skeleton crew. I have been working very long hours so I just grabbed some time to have a look.

10. When I went to look at the status of my notifications, I saw some other information come up on the screen that I had not seen before. I remember clearly an address in Dunedin, someone's name and a date of birth. I think there were several names and addresses on the screen but I did not really pay much attention to these because I jumped to the conclusion that they must have sent my [REDACTED] to a Dunedin dealer for valuation. I assumed these were the dealer's details and the system was showing me where my firearm was, like tracking a parcel.
11. I remember thinking it was strange that the dealer's address and even date of birth would be there. I thought I would not want to be in a business where customers got that much information.
12. I thought the several other names and addresses I had seen probably had something to do with processing my other claims. I did not really pay enough attention to remember clearly what I saw.
13. On Monday evening, I saw the TV news report of a data breach, including the screen shot of the information that had been wrongly accessed.
14. As I said, I was pretty tired from working long hours. It was not until Tuesday 3 December 2019 when I was thinking about it that I connected what had been shown on TV with the brief puzzlement at what I had seen when I logged into the system a few days earlier.
15. On [REDACTED] December 2019, I contacted the police officer [REDACTED] and reported what I had seen last week. He told me he would pass it up the chain.
16. I contacted COLFO because I have now heard that the Police say only one dealer accessed the wrong information. I am not and have never been a licensed dealer. I believe that what I saw was personal information I should not have been able to see.
17. I am willing for COLFO to provide a copy of this affidavit to anyone who needs to see it to understand the truth. But I have asked that it be supplied without disclosing my personal information. I have not had decisions on many of my confiscated items. It seems to me that whatever happened to the system is not their fault.

Affirmed at [REDACTED] on ^{3rd} JANUARY 2020
December 2019

Signature [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Before me
(name of JP)

