



6,287,125 CFRO QUERIES IN 2018 THAT RESULTED IN CHARGES: UNKNOWN

Fourteen years later the CFRO still cannot differentiate between direct and automatic checks.

RCMP response to Access to Information Act request A-2019-05230 September 16, 2020

2018 RCMP FIREARMS COMMISSIONER'S REPORT (Most recent available)

- 17,225 CFRO queries per day (Canadian Firearms Registry Online)

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/2018-commissioner-firearms-report#a4>

AUDITOR GENERAL: HITS A DAY AN INDICATOR OF ACTIVITY - NOT EFFECTIVENESS

MAY 31, 2006 http://cssa-cila.org/garryb/publications/2006_new/71.htm

WORDING OF THE ORIGINAL ATIP REQUEST – JULY 21, 2019

Reference is being made to the “*Average number of daily queries to the Canada Firearms Registry Online (CFRO)*” reported to the RCMP ‘*Geographical Firearms Report*’ prepared by Canadian Firearms Program Firearms Management and Strategic Services Directorate and made public in the RCMP response to *Access to Information Act* File: A-2018-09415. <https://dennisryoung.ca/2019/07/19/rcmp-geographical-firearms-report-2019/>

Reference is also being made to the following exchange between MP Dave MacKenzie and RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli at the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on Wednesday, June 7, 2006:

MP Dave MacKenzie: *All I'm trying to indicate to Canadians, though, is that there are not 5,000 checks a day just for firearms registry. Those are automatic checks done by police officers on the street for names and for a variety of things.*
RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli: *They're automatic CPIC checks that they automatically go over. I don't have the number of how many are direct checks.* [Page 11] http://cssa-cila.org/garryb/publications/2006_new/71.htm

For the years 2004 to 2018, please provide copies of all records (records as defined broadly under the Act) showing a statistical breakdown of ‘average daily queries to the CFRO’ that are:

- (1) the number of queries that are automatically generated,**
- (2) the number of queries that are direct checks or requests by officers and,**
- (3) the number of queries that result in firearms charges being laid.**

RCMP RESPONSE TO INFORMATION COMMISSIONER – SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

This email is to inform you that I've received representations from the RCMP regarding your complaint and based on these representations it appears that:

- *the CFRO cannot differentiate between direct and automatic checks*
- *the RCMP would not have information related to CFRO queries that led to firearms charges being laid as the systems do not maintain details of how the data from each query were actually used.*

OFFICIAL RCMP RESPONSE IN EMAIL ATTACHED – SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

From: Lisa Nancarrow <Lisa.Nancarrow@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>

Sent: September 16, 2020 10:38 AM

To: dennisyoung@telus.net

Subject: 5819-01301 / A-2019-05230:

Mr. Young,

The following are the representations from Canadian Firearms Program as requested regarding file 5819-01301 / A-2019-05230:

The Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO) is a search engine that allows police officers across the country to access a database that contains a subset of data stored within Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS), which is the repository for all licensing and registration data collected under the authority of the Firearms Act. CFRO is accessible via a component of the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and from police vehicles or desktops that allows police to verify where registered firearms may be present and who may be in possession of firearms.

The subset of information extracted from the CFIS system, and made accessible through CFRO, includes name, address, date of birth, gender, licence status (i.e. valid, revoked, refused or expired) for licensed individuals, and registration certificate, firearm identification number and firearm details (i.e. make, model, type, action, calibre, class, and shots) for registered firearms.

CFRO is accessible using the 'Property' query in CPIC, and can also be queried by selecting this option through the 'Persons' query. Queries can be executed using a client/registrant name, address, phone number, licence number, serial number, certificate number, or Firearms Identification Number (FIN). The Canadian Firearms Program maintains statistics on CFRO queries for each type.

The Canadian Firearms Program maintains statistics on CFRO queries, which were provided as part of our response to the original request. This included both annual CFRO queries back to 2004 and average daily CFRO queries. Statistics on CFRO queries that were automatically generated (with CFRO query set as a default setting within CPIC) or based on direct checks/searches by users are not available or discernable from the source systems given the ability of users to modify the format of their queries within CPIC, which may match or differ from automated CFRO queries implemented by some police services. From a CPIC perspective, all queries done through the CPIC application are based on direct checks/searches with the option to include CFRO either set as a default or selected by the user.

In addition, the Canadian Firearms Program would not have any information related to CFRO queries that ultimately led to firearms charges being laid. For situations where charges have been laid, any relevant information would need to be requested from the police of jurisdiction as the systems do not maintain details of how the data from each query were actually used. As mentioned, the Canadian Firearms Program maintains statistics on CFRO queries based on type. These are available and can be provided, although could not be relied on to determine whether a query was generated automatically or based on a specific query by a user.

The statistics provided were derived from a sub-set copy of CFIS data accessed for reporting purposes and generated using a business intelligence application (IBM Cognos). In addition to what was originally provided, a statistical breakdown of CFRO queries for each type could be generated, however these statistics could not be used to differentiate between automated and specific queries by users, or provide any information related to CFRO queries leading to charges being laid, as mentioned previously.

Thank you

Lisa Nancarrow

Senior ATIP Analyst/ Analyste d'AIPRP

Access to Information and Privacy Office

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Mailstop #61 - 73 Leikin Drive
Ottawa ON, K1A 0R2
Tel. (613) 825-3202
Fax. (613) 825-8221

From: Tyler Bissonnette <Tyler.Bissonnette@oic-ci.gc.ca>

Sent: September 9, 2020 1:18 PM

To: dennisyoung@telus.net

Subject: RE: Investigator Assigned - 5819-01301

Good Afternoon Mr. Young,

This email is to inform you that I've received representations from the RCMP regarding your complaint and based on these representations it appears that:

- the CFRO cannot differentiate between direct and automatic checks
- the RCMP would not have information related to CFRO queries that led to firearms charges being laid as the systems do not maintain details of how the data from each query were actually used.

Given this, I'm of the preliminary view that your complaint is not well founded, however, before proceeding I was hoping to get any final representations that you may have. Could you please provide me with any representations that you may have by **September 17, 2020**.

Thank you,

Tyler Bissonnette

Investigator,

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada

tyler.bissonnette@oic-ci.gc.ca / ~~Tel: 819-994-1436~~ / **Temporary number : 819-271-8067**