



Home Office

# Statutory guidance to police on firearms licensing

Response form



Home Office

## Consultation

### Respondent information

#### Q.1 Are you responding:

- As an individual? Please continue to **Q.2**
- On behalf of a business or other organisation? Please skip to **Q.4**



# Home Office **Individual respondents**

In this section, we ask individual respondents to describe the nature of their interest in firearms to assist in analysing the responses.

## **Q.2 Are you primarily a resident of:**

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- Other (please specify)

## **Q.3 What is the nature of your interest in firearms regulation?**

I am a.. (please tick all that apply)

Firearm certificate holder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shotgun certificate holder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gamekeeper or pest controller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmer, farm employee or land manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterinary surgeon/nurse or zookeeper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational shooter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gun control advocate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police or law enforcement officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
GP or other health worker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify below:)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please go to question 6 (medical arrangements)**



### Q.4 Where is the main location of your business

or organisation?

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- Other (please specify)

### Q.5 What is the nature of your business or organisation?

Firearms dealer	
Game keeping or pest control	
Farming or land management	
Veterinary practice or zookeeping	
Recreational shooting business	
Approved shooting club	
Museum	
Gun control advocacy	
Police or law enforcement	x
GP surgery or other health body	
Prefer not to say	
Other (please specify below:)	

**Please go to question 6 (medical arrangements)**



# Home Office **Medical Arrangements**

## Q6

To what extent do you agree that the new arrangement for medical checks will improve public safety?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

## Q7

To what extent do you agree that the police should not proceed to issue a firearm or shotgun certificate unless they have received the relevant information from the applicant's GP?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

## Q8

To what extent do you agree that the new arrangements for medical checks represent an effective and efficient approach to ensure the police have the medical information they need before making a decision on the application?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

## Q9

Do you have any other comments on the new arrangements for medical checks?  
[max 150 words]:

The draft guidance states if forces have concerns about the medical information given or wish to obtain a more detailed report then they should pay for any extra cost. All costs should be incurred by the applicant, not forces. Furthermore, the government should also take into consideration GP's contracts and the issuing of medical examinations for firearms licenses and clearly state what their obligations are.

This approach would reduce the burden on forces of interacting multiple times with GPs and avoid any issues where a GP is inefficient or opposed to firearms licencing. It will also ensure that licence renewals are far less automatic than at present as there is a risk that these have far less scrutiny than they should. The proforma can also include an agreement that if the licence is issued and notification is sent to the GP that the appropriate marker is placed on the record.



## The draft guidance other than the new medical arrangements

### Q10

Considering the draft guidance other than the new medical arrangements, are there any additional checks or processes that should be included in the statutory guidance to improve public safety?

- Yes x
- No
- Don't know

If "yes", please specify and give reasons [max 150 words]:

Firearms reminder on the patient's record, the draft guidance states is no requirement for a GP to monitor or assess a patient who currently holds a firearms certificate, but there is a duty for a doctor to disclose information where they believe the patient may present a risk of causing death or serious harm to themselves or others. It is open to a GP to approach the police at any time in order to pass on information of possible concern about an individual, whether a patient or not, who possesses firearms or is applying to do so. Although there is a duty for the GP to disclose this information, this should be done at the earliest opportunity and this should be reflected in the guidance.

**Q11** Is there anything further that can be added to the guidance to achieve a more consistent approach between forces regarding their firearms licensing functions?

- Yes x
- No
- Don't know

If "yes", please specify and give reasons [max 150 words]:

We believe the following areas should also be considered:

- Museums Licences: these museums will hold significant quantities of high risk firearms it is not clear how much control or supervision takes place or even whether there are agreed inventories of weapons so that you can actually know if an item goes missing.
- MOD Reserve and Cadet Forces Armouries: There have been 2 recent break ins to these types of facility and weapons have been stolen. There is also an insider threat. There should be an obligation on Secretary of State for Defence to require these premises to be registered with the local police force so that location and contents are known. Forces should have a right to inspect these facilities in order to ensure that the controls and conditions are satisfactory.



**Q12** To what extent do you agree that the draft guidance properly balances the interests of certificate holders and the need to preserve public safety?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

If you disagree, please specify and give reasons [max 150 words]:

**Q13** Do you have any other comments on the draft guidance? [max 150 words]:

## Costs and benefits

**Q14** Are any costs likely to arise as a result of the new medical guidance that are not taken into account in the impact assessment?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If "yes", please specify and provide estimates where possible [max 150 words]:

**Q15** Are any benefits likely to arise as a result of the new medical guidance that are not taken into account in the impact assessment?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



Home Office

If "yes", please specify and provide estimates where possible [max 150 words]:

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE**