



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARMERS

HEALTH & WELLBEING FORUM

Jim Hume, Chairman

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<https://farmerslivery.org.uk/health-wellbeing-forum/>



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12th October 2023, 2pm start

NPCC Firearms Licensing

NPCC Lead – Chief
Constable Debbie Tedds

Strategic Coordinator –
Superintendent Adrian
Davis

Warwickshire Police

Firearms Licensing

- Licensing Teams across 43 x Forces in England & Wales
 - Aligned Forces
 - Team Structure
 - Licensing Manager – Delegated Authority
 - Police Scotland (slightly different laws & air weapons)
-
- Home Office Firearms Policy Unit
 - College of Policing
 - National Crime Agency
 - National Ballistics Intelligence Service
 - Shooting Groups & Organisations
 - Independent Advisory Groups

Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025



Develop Capability

Understanding of new home office guidelines and medical processes.

New licensing management system.

Deliver Consistency

Manage shooting community concerns.

National briefings - highlighting our new focus towards vulnerability, risk and professional curiosity.

Support the Police Licensing Community

Developing a collaborative network of stakeholders within firearms licensing.

Encouraging licensing managers to share matters of concern, good practice and using strategic partners for advice and support.

Legislation & Guidance

Firearms Act 1968 - Statutory Test

Home Office Firearms Licensing Statutory Guidance for Chief Officers - November 2021, reviewed February 2023...further review in 2024

Home Office Guide to Firearms Licensing Law –2021

Firearms Security Handbook - 2020

Police Authorised Professional Practise – August 2023

Why do we have all this guidance ??

Tragic National
Incidents

West Sussex 2020
License holder
shot his wife and
children

Plymouth 2021
License holder
shot his mother &
four others

Epsom 2023
License holder
shot his wife &
daughter

Many other
incidents of
vulnerability &
self-harm

The Licensing Process

Application Form

GP medical report required (as of Nov 2021)

Applicant is obliged to disclose any criminal past & certain medical conditions

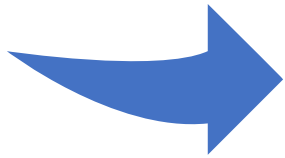
Police will carry out a variety of checks – additional checks may be required if suitability concerns are raised

Referees

Home Visit by Firearms Enquiry Officer (security, any other concerns)

Decision required to grant or refuse the license application

GP Digital Marker – What does this mean?



Application Made
Marker



License Granted Marker



License Cancellation
Notification

Licensing Manager Application Options

- Refuse the license application – explain why & right to appeal at Crown Court
- Grant the license – we don't always simply say NO
- Apply formal conditions if Sec 1 Firearms or seek agreement if Sec 2 Shotgun
- Additional Visits / Welfare Checks
- Engage with wider family, friends or shooting clubs



What if an adverse incident occurs during the licensing period?

- Review information / intelligence
- Police will either act or take no action
- Engage with the license holder / friends / family
- Voluntary surrender of firearms – what does this mean?
- Lodge the guns elsewhere
- Allow a period to lapse... for a criminal investigation to take its course, for medical intervention and support...or simply time and space required.
- Additional FEO Visits to license holder and others
- Licensing Manager to eventually decide on ongoing suitability - aligned to the statutory test to possess firearms



Dispelling the myths...

If I ask for help,
my guns will be
removed
permanently...

The police don't
listen...



The truth...

- Everyone's mental health is important
- We recognise that firearms may be part of your livelihood, your social activity and impacts positively on your mental health & wellbeing
- If you have concerns don't be afraid to talk to us. Its ok to say that you are not ok
- Experiencing low mood or depression is more common than you think
- Police will always prioritise public safety which includes the wellbeing of the license holder

Questions or
Concerns?





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