





CONTENTS

1. Aim..... 4

2. Principles ..... 5

4. Criteria for Visiting Applicants ..... 6

5. Administration ..... 8



## 1. Aim

- 1.1 The duty of the Leicestershire Police is to ensure that all firearms, shotguns and explosives in Leicestershire and Rutland are held lawfully and the aim will be the interest of public safety, the reduction of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and the protection of the rights and freedom of others. It will provide reassurance to, that no unsuitable person(s) will hold licenced firearms, shotguns or explosives.
- 1.2 To ensure The Chief Constable does not grant any type of certificate relating to firearms, shotguns or explosives to any person whom he has reason to believe to be:
  - Prohibited by the Firearms Act 1968 from possessing any firearm or ammunition
  - Prohibited by Explosives regulations from possessing any explosive
  - A person of intemperate habits, unsound mind or otherwise unfitted to possess firearms or ammunition
  - A person who is considered to be a danger to the public safety or to the peace.
- 1.3 To comply, in spirit, with the Lord Cullen Inquiry and also the HMIC Thematic Inspection in relation to ensuring that each individual who holds a firearm or shotgun certificate is visited at least once during the validity of their certificate and for the visit to be in accordance with a set criteria.
- 1.4 To provide the certificate holders of Leicestershire with a consistent interpretation of the Firearms and Explosives legislation taking into account Home Office Guidelines, ACPO recommendations and other national and regional policies.
- 1.5 To maintain a cost effective system (NFLMS) that ensures the efficient processing of applications whilst at the same time complying with guidance and ensuring that public safety remains paramount.
- 1.6 To provide full details of the processes and activities relating to the main business of the Firearms function together with details of responsibility.
- 1.7 To ensure that the Leicestershire Police records of certificate holders will be relevant, accurate and up to date and that Data Protection, Human Rights, and Freedom of Information legislation is complied with.
- 1.8 To ensure the role of Firearms Licensing is performed by dedicated trained and permanent staff to provide responsibility, accountability, consistency and professionalism.

## 2. Principles

- 2.1 Compliance with all current and future legislation in relation to Firearms and Explosives.
- 2.2 The Firearms Rules prescribe the format of firearm and shotgun applications, certificates, permits and other forms.
- 2.3 **'Firearms Law – Home Office Guidance to the Police April 2016'** will remain the basis for all procedures, practices and policies within the force. This document is intended to assist consistency of practice between police forces and encourage an informed understanding among firearm users of the considerations involved in the application of the Firearms Acts.
- 2.4 Application forms together with information packages are available at all police stations in Force area.
- 2.5 Information in relation to Firearms Licensing can be found on the Leicestershire Police website [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk).

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