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Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2009/10

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Table abbreviations

- '-' indicates nil
- '..' indicates that data are not available.

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Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2009/10

SUMMARY

- There were 141,775 firearm certificates on issue on 31 March 2010, an increase of two per cent compared with 138,728 on issue at the end of March 2009.
- 580,653 shotgun certificates were on issue on 31 March 2010, one per cent more than the 574,946 on issue at the end of March 2009.
- Around one per cent of new applications for firearm certificates and two per cent of new applications for shotgun certificates were refused in 2009/10.
- There were 3,182 registered firearm dealers on 31 March 2010, an increase of 12 per cent on last year, and 57 per cent higher than on 31 March 2006. The main reason for this increase is thought to be due to new legislation requiring persons who deal in air weapons to be registered as firearms dealers which was introduced in October 2007.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on the issue of firearm and shotgun certificates under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997. It covers certificates issued in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, as well as historical trend data. Further details of the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997 are given in the notes at the end of this report. Information of the number of firearm dealers is also provided.

Data for this bulletin are taken from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS). The NFLMS is a register of all persons who have applied for, or have been granted, a certificate for a firearm or shotgun. It is a web-based national register of all firearm certificate holders. It will update the Police National Computer with details of individuals who own firearms and/or shotguns and record details of anyone who has been refused a certificate or had one revoked. In addition, the NFLMS maintains information on people, companies and dealers that have requested firearms and/or shotgun certificates as well as information on weapons and their history and provides a register of individuals who have had their certificates revoked or had an application for a certificate rejected. The NFLMS is used by all police forces in England and Wales.

Due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to NFLMS during 2006, statistics relating to 2006/07 and numbers of weapons and persons covered by certificates for 2007/08 are not included in this analysis.

Statistics on crimes involving the use of a firearm during 2009/10 are published separately in *Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10* (Smith *et al.*, 2011): <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0111.pdf>

2. FIREARM CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 8)

Number of certificates on issue

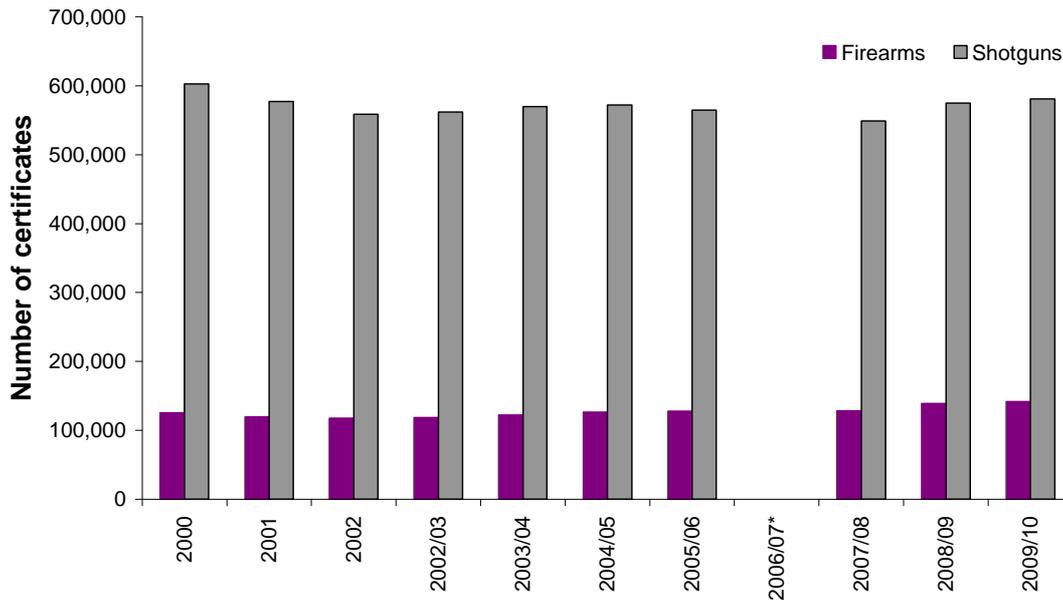
There were 141,775 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2010, an increase of two per cent compared with the 138,728 on issue at the end of March 2009. The number of firearm certificates on issue declined between 1971 and 2002, from 190,600 certificates to 117,700 (a decline of 38%). Since 2002, the number of firearm certificates held has risen by 20 per cent, with the 141,775 held in 2009/10 the highest number since 1996 when 141,900 certificates were held (Table 1).

The 141,775 certificates on issue at the end of March 2010 covered 451,131 firearms¹, the highest since these figures were first collected in 1995. The number of weapons covered decreased after the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 came into effect, falling to 295,000 in 1998, before steadily increasing year on year. However, prior to the advent of NFLMS a minority of police forces reported that they were unable to identify weapons that were shared between two or more certificate holders. This is particularly true if the certificate holders also happened to reside in different police force areas. This means that some weapons were 'double counted', which would have had the effect of artificially increasing the total number of firearms covered by the certificates. The new NFLMS does not double count these shared weapons, although in the transition from in-force systems there may be some weapons that have slightly different descriptions and therefore may be counted more than once. It is anticipated that all double counting will be ended after the completion of the five-year renewal cycle in 2012. Due to this, caution should be taken when interpreting these figures.

The average number of firearms per certificate on 31 March 2010 was 3.2 (Table 3). This number is slightly higher than the 3.1 firearms per certificate reported in 2008/09 and the highest since figures were first collected in 1995. Figures for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are not available due to the transition to NFLMS. The previous available figure was for 2005/06, when there were 2.9 weapons on average per certificate.

¹ This figure includes those actually possessed and those authorised for possession but not yet acquired.

Figure 1 Firearm and shotgun certificates on issue, 2000 to 2009/10



*2006/07 data are not available (see page 5)

New applications and renewals

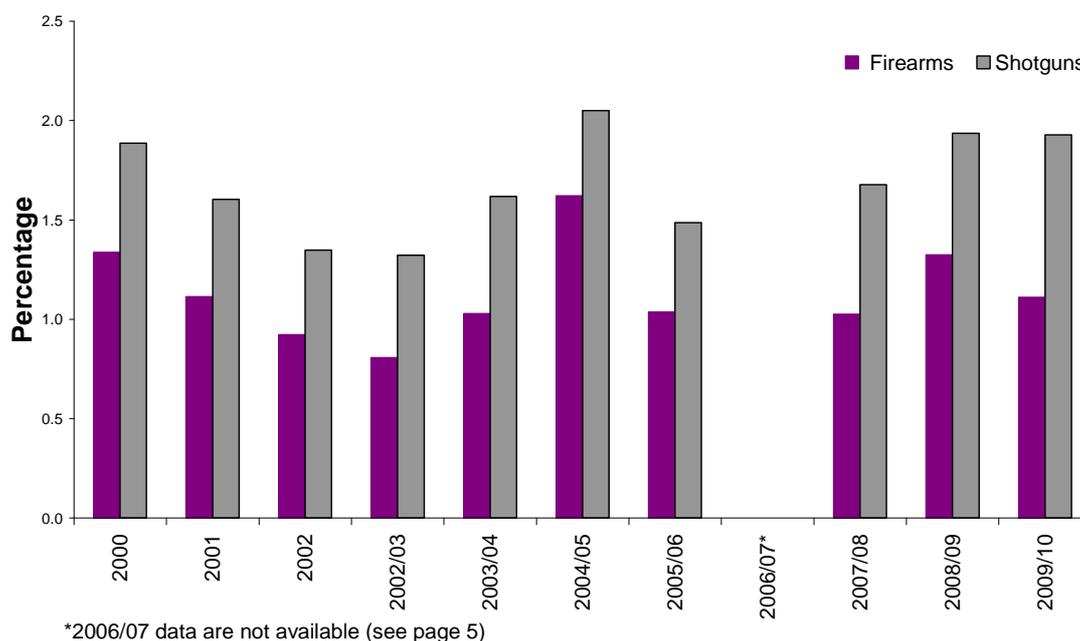
There were 9,462 new firearm certificates granted in 2009/10, a six per cent reduction from the 10,046 certificates granted during 2008/09 (Tables 1 and 3). In 2009/10, around one per cent of new applications for firearm certificates were refused. Figure 2 shows the percentage of new firearm and shotgun certificate applications that were refused between 2000 and 2009/10, excluding 2006/07.

On 1 January 1995, the renewal cycle for firearm certificates changed from three to five years. This meant that for two years no renewals were made (1998 and 1999). This change in the renewal cycle has also affected later years, including data published this year, for 2009/10 (Table 1). Therefore it is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes for renewals. There were 13,500 renewal applications granted in 2009/10.

Revocations of certificates

Firearm certificates can be revoked if the Chief Police Officer is satisfied that the holder can no longer be entrusted with firearms. In 2009/10, a total of 302 firearm certificates were revoked (Table 3), compared with 260 in 2008/09.

Figure 2 Percentage of new applications for firearm and shotgun certificates refused, 2000 to 2009/10



3. SHOTGUN CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 6 and 8)

Number of certificates on issue

There were 580,653 shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2010, an increase of one per cent compared with 574,946 at the end of March 2009. The number of shotgun certificates on issue peaked in 1988 (at 882,000) before falling, with the number of certificates on issue this year being more than a third lower (34%) than the peak (Table 2).

Shotgun certificates in force at the end of March 2010 covered 1,358,522 shotguns, a decrease of one per cent from the 1,366,082 recorded at the end of March 2009. Due to the transition to the NFLMS, data on the number of shotguns covered in each force area are not available for 2006/07 and 2007/08. As with firearm certificates, in a minority of police forces the number of shotguns held under certificate in the period prior to 2007/08 might be affected by the double counting of weapons that were shared between two or more certificate holders.

The average number of shotguns per certificate in 2009/10 was 2.3, compared with the 2.4 shotguns per certificate on average in 2008/09. Details for each police force are given in Table 4.

New applications, renewals and revocations

There were 23,950 new shotgun certificates granted during 2009/10, a six per cent decrease compared with 2008/09 when 25,411 shotgun certificates were granted (Table 2). As with firearm certificates, the renewal of shotgun certificates moved to a five-year cycle on 1

January 1995. The number of renewal certificates in 2009/10 was 47,137. It is again not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes due to changes in the pattern of renewals resulting from the change of the renewal cycle.

In 2009/10, around two per cent of new applications for shotgun certificates and less than one per cent of applications for the renewal of shotgun certificates were refused. The number of shotgun certificates revoked increased by seven per cent, from 1,009 in 2008/09 to 1,076 in 2009/10 (Table 4).

4. FIREARM DEALERS (see Notes, paragraphs 9 and 10)

On 31 March 2010, there were 3,182 registered firearm dealers in England and Wales, an increase of 12 per cent from the 2,840 dealers registered in 2008/09. The number of registered firearm dealers declined between 1996 and 2003/04, from 2,490 to 1,950 (a decline of 22%) but has risen 63 per cent since then (Table 6). The increase is partly due to the introduction of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, which required businesses that sell air weapons to register with the police as dealers. This Act, which came into force on the 1 October 2007, allowed businesses to apply for registration from 6 April 2007 (see Notes, paragraph 10). The effect of the act can be seen in the relatively high number (1,273) of applications that were granted for previously unregistered dealers in 2007/08 (Table 6). Data for each police force for 2009/10 are given in Table 5.

5. VISITORS' PERMITS (See Notes, paragraph 11)

In 2009/10, a total of 2,209 people were covered by individual and group firearm visitors' permits, a 12 per cent increase compared with 2008/09, when 1,974 people were covered (Table 9). The figures tend to fluctuate from year to year, averaging around 2,000 since 1995, the first year these particular data were collected.

In 2009/10, 7,186 people were covered by a shotgun visitor's permit, an increase of two per cent compared with 2008/09. The number of people covered by shotgun visitors' permits in the last three years has been higher than those covered in the early to mid-2000s (Table 9).

Data for visitors' permits for firearms and shotguns for the last three years show a doubling in the number of individual permits issued compared with 2005/06 (the last reporting period prior to the introduction of the NFLMS), while group applications have fallen considerably. These changes are likely to be related and due to differences in recording between the NFLMS and the previous in-force collections. Consequently, only data for the combined total number of persons covered by individual and group permits are presented in Table 9. Figures for 2006/07 are not available due to the transition to NFLMS. Force level figures can be found in Tables 7 and 8.

6. EUROPEAN FIREARMS PASSES (EFPs) AND ARTICLE 7 AUTHORITIES

(See Notes, paragraph 12)

The police began to issue EFPs in January 1993. At the end of March 2010 15,570 EFPs were on issue in England and Wales (Table 10), an increase of two per cent compared with the 15,285 EFPs on issue at the end of March 2009. The number of EFPs has increased steadily over recent years.

During 2009/10, two applications for Article 7 Authorities were granted to certificate holders, compared with 24 during 2008/09 (Table 11).

NOTES

Accuracy of the statistics

1. The statistics in this bulletin for years up to and including 2005/06 were compiled by each police force and included in an annual aggregate return to the Home Office. Figures from 2007/08 onwards have been extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). They are subject to the measurement inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. So that the reliability of data could be ensured, each force was asked to check their own data and supply revised figures where necessary.

Regulations on the issue of certificates and permits

2. All persons acquiring or in possession of a firearm or shotgun must have a certificate issued by the Chief Police Officer of the police force area in which the person lives, unless they are otherwise exempt. Persons sentenced to any form of custody for a period of three years or more are prohibited from possessing firearms for life. Those sentenced to three months or more but less than three years are subject to a five-year prohibition from the date of their release.

3. Firearm certificates are issued for weapons covered by section 1 of the 1968 Firearms Act (as amended), including rifles, muzzle-loading revolvers and shotguns with magazines that are capable of holding more than two cartridges. The Chief Police Officer must be satisfied that an applicant has good reason for wanting a weapon, is fit to be entrusted with it, and that the public safety or the peace will not be endangered. The certificate lists the number, type and serial number of each weapon held and any conditions attached (a standard condition is that weapons and ammunition are held in a secure place when not in use).

4. The Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 banned all firearms with a barrel less than 30cm in length or with an overall length of less than 60cm. Certain types of firearms remain exempt, including muzzle-loading guns, firearms used for the humane killing of animals, flare pistols and vintage pistols held as war trophies or collectors' items, etc.

5. Section 39 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 banned air weapons that use, or are designed or adapted for use with, a self-contained gas cartridge system. With effect from 20 January 2004, under section 5(3) of the 1968 Act, such weapons could not be purchased, acquired, manufactured, sold or transferred without the Secretary of State's authority. The offence of possession was brought into force separately under subsection 4 and came into effect on 30 April 2004. This made provision for existing owners to keep and continue to use their weapons, provided the weapons were added to a firearm certificate (new or variation). Existing owners who did not wish to apply for a certificate were able to hand their weapon into the police for disposal by 30 April 2004.

6. Shotgun certificates, covered by section 2 of the 1968 Act and section 2 of the 1988 Act, permit the holder to possess any number of shotguns. These can include pump-action and self-loading weapons that have a magazine that is incapable of holding more than two cartridges, but excluding large magazine smooth bore guns. Apart from the general prohibitions applying to all types of firearm, applications may not be granted or renewed if a Chief Police Officer has reason to believe that the applicant is prohibited by the Firearms Acts from possessing a shotgun or if he is satisfied that the applicant does not have a good reason for possessing, purchasing or acquiring one. Nor may applications be granted or renewed unless the Chief Police Officer is satisfied that the applicant can be permitted to possess a shotgun without danger to the public safety or to the peace (section 3 of the 1988 Act). The certificate specifies the description of the shotguns including, if known, the identification numbers of the guns.

7. Certain types of weapons (e.g. machine guns) are prohibited under section 5 of the 1968 Act as amended by section 1 of the 1988 Act; their possession can only be authorised by the Secretary of State after careful enquiries by the police.

8. The Firearms (Period of Certificate) Order 1994 came into effect on 1 January 1995. The Order extends the life of all firearm and shotgun certificates granted or renewed after that date to five years. To alter the number and type of weapons held on a firearm certificate, an application for a variation must be made to the Chief Police Officer. The expiry date of a shotgun certificate can be aligned with the holder's firearm certificate (section 11 of the 1988 Act). In 1989, forces began recording the number of weapons for both firearm and shotgun certificates on their computer systems.

9. Section 13 of the 1988 Act increased the registration period for dealers from one to three years. The grounds for refusal of new applications for registration were extended and a register of transactions must be retained for at least five years.

10. Section 31 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 required businesses that sell air weapons to register with the police as dealers. The section was brought into place in two stages: businesses were able to apply for registration from 6 April 2007 and the offence of not being registered came into effect on 1 October 2007.

Regulations on the issue of visitors' permits

11. The conditions for exemptions from holding a firearm certificate were revised in sections 15 to 19 of the 1988 Act. Visitors' permits were introduced allowing the holder to possess a firearm or shotgun without holding a certificate. Permits are in force for a period not exceeding 12 months. Group applications may be made for up to 20 persons (section 17 of the 1988 Act).

12. Each EU state was required to amend its firearms legislation to meet the requirements of the 1991 EC Weapons Directive. In the UK these changes were made by means of the Firearms Acts (Amendment) Regulations 1992, which made provision for the police to issue two new documents to British residents: the European Firearms Pass (EFP) and an Article 7 Authority.

- (a) The EFP is broadly speaking a passport for firearms. EU residents intending to take their firearm or shotgun to another EU state will need an EFP issued by their State of residence. There is only one criterion for the issue of an EFP to a British resident, that the applicant must possess a valid firearm or shotgun certificate. The EFP does not replace the certificate.
- (b) Article 7 of the Weapons Directive requires any EU resident wanting to purchase certain types of firearms, or ammunition for such firearms, outside his or her State of residence to have the prior authority of their own State. In England, Wales and Scotland this agreement is at the discretion of the local Chief Police Officer. Firearms cannot be brought into the UK if an individual does not hold an appropriate firearm certificate, even if Article 7 Authority has been granted.

Table 1 Firearm certificates: applications, certificates on issue and firearms covered by certificates, 1971 and 1981 to 2009/10^{1,2}

Year	Applications				Firearm certificates on issue	Number of firearms covered by certificates on issue ⁴
	New applications		Renewal applications ³			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refuse		
1971	..	..	..	..	190,600	..
1981	..	..	..	..	164,900	..
1982	..	..	..	..	162,700	..
1983 ⁵	10,500	230	43,400	200	159,800	..
1984 ⁵	11,400	220	43,700	180	160,300	..
1985 ⁵	11,700	220	44,200	150	160,400	..
1986 ⁵	12,100	260	43,600	240	160,300	..
1987 ⁵	11,500	230	42,600	280	159,000	..
1988 ⁵	10,100	240	41,400	410	155,400	..
1989	10,800	260	40,500	300	149,400	..
1990	11,200	230	38,700	240	142,500	..
1991	10,100	180	38,400	170	138,600	..
1992	10,600	160	38,500	120	136,800	..
1993	10,900	120	37,300	170	138,400	..
1994	11,700	120	37,900	130	140,200	..
1995	10,900	110	38,500	110	141,700	413,600
1996	10,200	160	38,100	120	141,900	418,300
1997	6,800	120	32,800	80	133,600	305,000
1998	5,900	110	1,600	10	131,900	295,000
1999	5,000	90	250	0	132,300	296,400
2000	5,900	80	26,200	90	125,400	296,800
2001	7,100	80	31,300	110	119,600	301,000
2002	8,600	80	28,800	90	117,700	311,000
2002/03	8,600	70	25,100	70	118,600	316,700
2003/04	7,700	80	4,100	10	122,100	342,200
2004/05	9,100	150	8,300	10	126,400	358,300
2005/06	8,600	90	29,100	40	127,900	368,600
2006/07 ⁶	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08 ⁶	11,601	123	30,158	50	128,528	..
2008/09	10,046	133	9,668	24	138,728	435,383
2009/10	9,462	105	13,500	15	141,775	451,131

1. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years as at 31 March.

2. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

3. The extension of the period of the certificates from three years to five years in 1995 means that renewal figures since this date are not directly comparable. No renewals were due in 1998 and 1999, those shown are delayed applications from 1997.

4. Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995.

5. Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

6. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

Table 2 Shotgun certificates: applications, certificates on issue and shotguns covered by certificates, 1971 and 1981 to 2009/10^{1,2}

Year	Applications				Shotgun certificates on issue	Number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue ⁴
	New applications		Renewal applications ³			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
1971	..	..	..	..	715,500	..
1981	..	..	..	..	785,200	..
1982	..	..	..	..	780,600	..
1983 ⁵	46,600	500	233,700	170	783,400	..
1984 ⁵	55,600	580	233,000	150	798,400	..
1985 ^{5,6}	60,500	690	232,900	170	819,300	..
1986 ⁵	64,100	810	239,900	160	841,000	..
1987 ⁵	65,000	960	246,300	230	861,300	..
1988 ^{5,6}	56,800	980	245,000	340	882,000	..
1989	47,500	970	226,200	330	865,100	..
1990 ⁵	37,800	550	213,500	650	802,300	..
1991 ⁷	35,500	540	208,700	450	724,600	..
1992	33,000	530	197,200	240	689,200	..
1993	31,100	450	195,800	190	681,100	..
1994	32,200	440	201,400	140	670,000	..
1995	24,800	360	195,900	130	653,800	1,325,800
1996	25,800	500	193,100	230	638,000	1,335,000
1997	20,800	380	174,500	170	623,100	1,343,900
1998	16,900	380	6,600	60	627,600	1,343,100
1999	15,600	440	2,500	10	625,700	1,327,800
2000	18,200	350	141,300	280	602,500	1,320,900
2001	22,700	370	162,400	310	577,200	1,307,600
2002	25,600	350	152,700	300	559,000	1,314,600
2002/03	26,100	350	125,200	260	561,800	1,325,400
2003/04	22,500	370	13,500	50	569,900	1,372,700
2004/05	23,400	490	46,600	40	572,400	1,384,000
2005/06	25,200	380	141,100	180	563,600	1,360,800
2006/07 ⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08 ⁸	32,358	552	123,766	170	549,207	..
2008/09	25,411	492	25,408	93	574,946	1,366,082
2009/10	23,950	462	47,137	45	580,653	1,358,522

1. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years as at 31 March.

2. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

3. The extension of the period of the certificates from three years to five years in 1995 means that renewal figures since this date are not directly comparable. No renewals were due in 1998 and 1999, those shown are delayed applications from 1997.

4. Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995.

5. Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

6. Records of shotgun certificates were computerised by the Metropolitan Police in 1985 and Thames Valley in 1988 bringing to light previous under-recording of these figures by up to 7,000 in each force.

7. Reductions of about 9,000 certificates in Essex, 6,000 certificates in Kent and 2,000 in West Mercia occurred in 1991 due to previous over-recording in these forces' figures.

8. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

Table 3 Firearm certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and revocations, 2009/10; certificates on issue at 31 March 2010 by police force area

Police force area	Applications						Revocations	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 March	Number of firearms covered by certificates in force at 31 March	Average number of firearms per certificate
	New applications		Renewal applications		Variation of certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	343	5	570	-	313	-	18	5,451	16,251	3.0
Bedfordshire	73	2	167	-	107	-	2	1,550	5,218	3.4
Cambridgeshire	192	-	270	-	166	-	7	2,770	7,576	2.7
Cheshire	180	1	262	-	120	-	3	2,697	7,787	2.9
Cleveland	80	1	87	-	50	-	1	972	2,922	3.0
Cumbria	188	3	320	-	172	1	-	3,446	9,863	2.9
Derbyshire	175	1	292	-	151	-	5	3,112	10,488	3.4
Devon and Cornwall	632	2	823	1	457	-	7	9,449	26,186	2.8
Dorset	206	2	275	-	152	-	5	3,298	10,123	3.1
Durham	226	3	288	1	218	1	5	2,504	7,463	3.0
Essex	413	2	538	-	354	-	12	4,732	16,464	3.5
Gloucestershire	129	-	205	-	131	-	7	2,471	7,554	3.1
Greater Manchester	140	1	241	-	132	-	5	2,038	8,396	4.1
Hampshire	325	4	464	-	273	1	15	5,120	17,264	3.4
Hertfordshire	159	1	240	-	141	1	4	2,205	10,724	4.9
Humberside	199	2	179	0	149	-	9	2,697	7,493	2.8
Kent	412	6	483	1	345	-	5	4,753	15,771	3.3
Lancashire	208	6	317	0	204	3	9	2,758	8,767	3.2
Leicestershire	149	1	232	0	142	-	5	2,118	6,527	3.1
Lincolnshire	300	3	426	-	230	-	-	3,982	10,999	2.8
London, City of	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	35	5.8
Merseyside	57	-	82	-	54	-	-	930	3,461	3.7
Metropolitan Police	317	10	473	1	250	3	13	4,344	15,488	3.6
Norfolk	400	1	378	-	281	2	2	4,366	13,243	3.0
Northamptonshire	107	1	235	-	135	1	5	2,531	7,911	3.1
Northumbria	185	3	281	-	182	-	10	3,565	10,023	2.8
North Yorkshire	309	-	586	-	263	2	12	6,037	16,738	2.8
Nottinghamshire	101	2	193	-	119	-	3	1,986	6,965	3.5
South Yorkshire	136	-	170	-	150	-	3	1,734	5,887	3.4
Staffordshire	172	1	280	-	145	-	8	2,866	10,084	3.5
Suffolk	308	1	423	1	212	1	4	4,162	11,647	2.8
Surrey	216	2	254	1	173	-	6	2,825	10,289	3.6
Sussex	445	4	508	4	350	-	15	6,033	21,839	3.6
Thames Valley	336	1	639	1	303	-	14	6,567	21,323	3.2
Warwickshire	101	1	220	-	93	-	5	2,103	6,672	3.2
West Mercia	457	6	533	2	311	2	28	6,319	19,913	3.2
West Midlands	124	2	225	1	145	-	10	1,900	7,332	3.9
West Yorkshire	218	8	286	1	181	1	4	2,789	9,088	3.3
Wiltshire	190	1	267	-	159	-	8	3,083	9,675	3.1
Dyfed-Powys	223	8	285	-	140	-	12	3,750	12,218	3.3
Gwent	77	-	120	-	95	1	2	1,231	4,121	3.3
North Wales	127	3	224	-	111	2	5	2,531	6,478	2.6
South Wales	126	4	158	-	116	-	9	1,994	6,865	3.4
England and Wales	9,462	105	13,500	15	7,975	22	302	141,775	451,131	3.2

Table 4 Shotgun certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and revocations, 2009/10; certificates on issue at 31 March 2010 by police force area

Police force area	Applications				Revocations	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 March	Number of shotguns covered by certificates in force at 31 March	Average number of shotguns per certificate
	New applications		Renewal applications					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	816	19	1,666	1	40	21,223	46,366	2.2
Bedfordshire	241	4	605	1	10	6,602	15,766	2.4
Cambridgeshire	502	3	1,147	-	16	12,908	30,644	2.4
Cheshire	811	10	929	1	17	11,977	27,465	2.3
Cleveland	133	2	251	-	4	2,580	5,582	2.2
Cumbria	331	-	743	-	9	10,006	22,659	2.3
Derbyshire	470	11	760	-	22	12,447	28,649	2.3
Devon and Cornwall	843	10	2,368	2	23	31,507	71,768	2.3
Dorset	439	9	915	1	25	11,368	24,728	2.2
Durham	292	15	519	2	15	6,194	14,087	2.3
Essex	1,158	10	1,941	2	49	21,286	49,215	2.3
Gloucestershire	361	4	729	-	14	10,593	26,507	2.5
Greater Manchester	407	11	765	2	21	8,486	19,108	2.3
Hampshire	833	25	1,728	1	63	22,144	50,351	2.3
Hertfordshire	453	7	860	-	14	10,213	30,826	3.0
Humberside	408	5	687	1	21	9,949	24,859	2.5
Kent	921	8	1,803	1	19	21,697	49,801	2.3
Lancashire	684	13	1,007	-	21	11,961	28,011	2.3
Leicestershire	486	1	882	-	25	11,098	26,467	2.4
Lincolnshire	603	16	1,323	-	21	15,412	39,038	2.5
London, City of	2	-	2	-	-	32	55	1.7
Merseyside	134	2	318	-	7	3,590	7,544	2.1
Metropolitan Police	1,629	49	2,041	7	87	25,792	50,364	2.0
Norfolk	1,152	1	1,971	-	7	21,351	55,505	2.6
Northamptonshire	359	9	766	-	14	9,874	23,246	2.4
Northumbria	372	9	496	1	23	9,041	20,954	2.3
North Yorkshire	694	4	1,579	1	18	18,545	41,573	2.2
Nottinghamshire	364	6	666	1	8	9,019	21,183	2.3
South Yorkshire	506	11	676	-	23	8,279	18,030	2.2
Staffordshire	488	16	946	1	24	13,653	32,606	2.4
Suffolk	675	2	2,186	1	15	17,439	41,974	2.4
Surrey	561	13	1,077	1	33	13,040	29,072	2.2
Sussex	722	9	1,388	6	38	20,689	48,117	2.3
Thames Valley	1,109	30	2,627	-	54	28,199	67,136	2.4
Warwickshire	325	1	759	1	16	8,905	20,602	2.3
West Mercia	997	26	2,292	5	86	28,099	69,978	2.5
West Midlands	371	10	794	-	32	8,631	18,628	2.2
West Yorkshire	571	27	933	2	16	10,637	23,217	2.2
Wiltshire	529	5	1,034	-	27	12,922	29,725	2.3
Dyfed-Powys	433	7	1,071	2	51	17,065	45,330	2.7
Gwent	174	2	464	-	5	6,101	14,384	2.4
North Wales	364	20	932	-	32	12,357	29,387	2.4
South Wales	227	20	491	1	11	7,742	18,015	2.3
England and Wales	23,950	462	47,137	45	1,076	580,653	1,358,522	2.3

Table 5 Firearm dealers: applications for registration and removals from register, 2009/10; dealers registered at 31 March 2010 by police force area

Police force area	New applications for registration		Applications for new certificates from registered dealers		Dealers removed from register	Dealers registered at 31 March
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
	Avon and Somerset	18	-	7			-	10	89
Bedfordshire	5	-	2	-	1	29
Cambridgeshire	13	-	5	-	13	41
Cheshire	7	-	5	-	2	48
Cleveland	-	-	3	-	-	16
Cumbria	4	-	8	-	2	44
Derbyshire	11	1	9	-	6	68
Devon and Cornwall	14	-	9	-	14	134
Dorset	8	1	6	-	3	63
Durham	3	-	6	-	-	29
Essex	13	-	24	-	4	125
Gloucestershire	4	-	-	-	1	34
Greater Manchester	3	1	14	-	2	61
Hampshire	24	-	6	-	5	93
Hertfordshire	8	-	18	-	2	66
Humberside	5	-	6	-	2	50
Kent	13	-	15	-	4	122
Lancashire	3	1	4	-	-	49
Leicestershire	79	-	6	-	9	50
Lincolnshire	21	-	-	-	-	82
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	2	-	-	-	-	18
Metropolitan Police	54	3	23	1	6	221
Norfolk	20	-	6	-	8	69
Northamptonshire	16	-	9	-	3	78
Northumbria	6	-	2	-	3	48
North Yorkshire	15	-	7	-	1	75
Nottinghamshire	48	-	4	-	3	120
South Yorkshire	9	-	3	-	5	31
Staffordshire	18	-	5	-	5	109
Suffolk	10	-	11	-	6	71
Surrey	53	1	13	1	3	155
Sussex	15	-	5	-	2	110
Thames Valley	22	1	9	-	8	182
Warwickshire	14	-	6	-	-	75
West Mercia	15	-	12	-	-	133
West Midlands	8	-	6	-	1	81
West Yorkshire	10	-	7	-	3	64
Wiltshire	18	-	15	-	5	88
Dyfed-Powys	9	-	3	-	1	51
Gwent	2	-	2	-	1	30
North Wales	6	-	1	-	1	39
South Wales	2	-	1	-	-	41
England and Wales	628	9	303	2	145	3,182

Table 6 Firearm dealers: applications for registration and renewal, granted, and refused; dealers registered, 1995 to 2009/10¹

Numbers	England and Wales				
	Applications for registration from dealers				Dealers registered ²
	Previously unregistered		Previously registered		
Year	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	
1995	193	10	1,760	13	2,470
1996	149	14	240	2	2,490
1997	102	5	80	2	2,400
1998	120	6	1,360	18	2,180
1999	172	3	180	1	2,090
2000	133	-	190	2	2,070
2001	249	3	1,150	9	1,960
2002/03	154	2	250	3	1,970
2003/04	281	6	300	1	1,950
2004/05	167	5	1,050	-	1,970
2005/06	228	1	310	1	2,030
2006/07 ³	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08	1,273	9	1,035	-	2,792
2008/09	667	7	325	1	2,840
2009/10	628	9	303	2	3,182

1. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

2. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years as at 31 March.

3. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

Table 7 Visitors' firearm permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area, 2009/10

Police force area	England and Wales						
	New applications				Total of persons covered	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications			Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		Granted	Refused
Avon and Somerset	87	-	1	-	95	-	-
Bedfordshire	21	-	1	-	27	-	-
Cambridgeshire	11	-	-	-	11	-	-
Cheshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cleveland	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cumbria	19	-	-	-	19	-	-
Derbyshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	43	-	1	-	49	-	-
Dorset	175	-	-	-	175	-	-
Durham	9	-	-	-	9	-	-
Essex	43	-	-	-	43	-	-
Gloucestershire	11	-	-	-	11	-	-
Greater Manchester	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Hampshire	147	-	1	-	160	-	-
Hertfordshire	21	-	1	-	27	-	-
Humberside	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Kent	23	-	-	-	23	-	-
Lancashire	60	-	5	-	93	-	-
Leicestershire	27	-	-	-	27	-	-
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	9	-	-	-	9	-	-
Metropolitan Police	80	-	2	-	111	-	-
Norfolk	60	-	-	-	60	-	-
Northamptonshire	14	-	-	-	14	-	-
Northumbria	38	-	-	-	38	-	-
North Yorkshire	29	-	1	-	37	-	-
Nottinghamshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
South Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffordshire	56	-	1	-	64	-	-
Suffolk	110	-	1	-	116	-	-
Surrey	142	-	28	-	540	-	-
Sussex	52	-	-	-	52	-	-
Thames Valley	133	-	2	-	161	-	-
Warwickshire	30	-	-	-	30	-	-
West Mercia	22	-	-	-	22	-	-
West Midlands	48	-	-	-	48	-	-
West Yorkshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wiltshire	111	-	-	-	111	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Gwent	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
North Wales	10	-	-	-	10	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
England and Wales	1,658	-	45	-	2,209	-	-

Table 8 Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area, 2009/10

Police force area	England and Wales						
	New applications				Total of persons covered	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications			Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		Granted	Refused
Avon and Somerset	173	-	6	-	217	-	-
Bedfordshire	131	-	5	-	155	-	-
Cambridgeshire	19	-	1	-	25	-	-
Cheshire	13	-	-	-	13	-	-
Cleveland	10	-	-	-	10	-	-
Cumbria	128	-	-	-	128	-	-
Derbyshire	17	-	1	-	27	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	117	-	2	-	134	-	-
Dorset	130	-	-	-	130	-	-
Durham	32	-	1	-	38	-	-
Essex	142	-	1	-	149	-	-
Gloucestershire	73	-	2	-	80	-	-
Greater Manchester	18	-	1	-	28	-	-
Hampshire	553	-	28	-	709	-	-
Hertfordshire	53	-	3	-	77	-	-
Humberside	55	-	3	-	80	-	-
Kent	149	-	7	-	202	-	-
Lancashire	27	-	1	-	34	-	-
Leicestershire	71	-	6	-	94	-	-
Lincolnshire	197	-	-	-	197	-	-
London, City of	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Merseyside	24	-	-	-	24	-	-
Metropolitan Police	228	-	1	-	234	-	-
Norfolk	265	-	9	-	336	-	-
Northamptonshire	44	-	1	-	54	-	-
Northumbria	223	-	6	-	274	-	-
North Yorkshire	240	-	11	-	297	-	-
Nottinghamshire	10	-	-	-	10	-	-
South Yorkshire	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Staffordshire	94	-	2	-	112	-	-
Suffolk	412	-	10	-	486	-	-
Surrey	560	-	22	-	797	-	-
Sussex	236	-	12	-	323	-	-
Thames Valley	723	-	30	-	832	-	-
Warwickshire	31	-	1	-	37	-	-
West Mercia	220	-	10	-	271	-	-
West Midlands	24	-	-	-	24	-	-
West Yorkshire	23	-	1	-	42	-	-
Wiltshire	266	-	3	-	279	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	19	-	-	-	19	-	-
Gwent	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
North Wales	161	-	7	-	197	-	-
South Wales	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
England and Wales	5,922	-	194	-	7,186	-	-

Table 9 Visitors' permits, 1995 to 2009/10¹

Numbers	England and Wales	
	Total persons covered ²	
Year	firearm certificates	shotgun certificates
1995	1,960	5,850
1996	2,400	7,120
1997	2,100	6,570
1998	2,350	7,140
1999	1,920	6,420
2000	2,280	5,990
2001	1,630	5,260
2002/03	2,220	5,680
2003/04	1,810	5,780
2004/05	2,110	6,200
2005/06	1,770	5,360
2006/07 ³	..	..
2007/08	2,345	7,930
2008/09	1,974	7,035
2009/10	2,209	7,186

1. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

2. Due to differences in recording between the NFLMS and the previous in-force collections the number of persons covered by visitors' permits are no longer be broken down by individual and group permits.

3. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS).

Table 10 European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and cancellations during 2009/10; passes on issue 31 March 2010, by police force area

Police force area	Applications			Cancellations	Passes on issue at 31 March
	England and Wales				
	Grant of new certificate	Renewal of certificate	Variation of certificate		
Avon and Somerset	37	38	-	21	421
Bedfordshire	13	8	-	7	130
Cambridgeshire	26	28	-	11	285
Cheshire	24	28	-	2	271
Cleveland	4	6	-	-	37
Cumbria	12	12	-	6	117
Derbyshire	14	12	-	10	254
Devon and Cornwall	47	25	-	11	456
Dorset	44	5	-	10	197
Durham	13	9	-	3	73
Essex	79	58	-	38	629
Gloucestershire	30	21	-	17	317
Greater Manchester	22	22	-	10	225
Hampshire	60	41	-	29	699
Hertfordshire	38	39	-	7	391
Humberside	19	14	-	4	132
Kent	100	71	-	33	773
Lancashire	36	28	-	9	213
Leicestershire	25	16	-	6	239
Lincolnshire	31	31	-	5	238
London, City of	2	-	-	-	2
Merseyside	7	1	-	-	21
Metropolitan Police	297	183	-	67	2,655
Norfolk	50	11	-	19	248
Northamptonshire	20	42	-	13	289
Northumbria	24	6	-	15	163
North Yorkshire	36	40	-	13	394
Nottinghamshire	17	15	-	5	144
South Yorkshire	12	8	-	1	156
Staffordshire	16	13	-	3	232
Suffolk	26	21	-	8	288
Surrey	71	73	-	28	811
Sussex	88	51	-	26	735
Thames Valley	99	80	-	26	1,095
Warwickshire	19	23	-	13	272
West Mercia	46	56	-	13	521
West Midlands	13	39	-	11	278
West Yorkshire	29	14	-	18	279
Wiltshire	42	16	-	9	330
Dyfed-Powys	18	8	-	5	146
Gwent	13	13	-	4	146
North Wales	16	4	-	3	90
South Wales	19	10	-	8	178
England and Wales	1,654	1,239	-	547	15,570

Table 11 Article 7 Authorities: applications for grant, variations and cancellations, by police force area, 2009/10

Police force area	Applications								Variations	Cancellations
	By certificate holders		By non-certificate holders		For possession outside UK		For ammunition only			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
Avon and Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridgeshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derbyshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dorset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancashire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northamptonshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nottinghamshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surrey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thames Valley	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Warwickshire	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Mercia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wiltshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gwent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
England and Wales	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2