

# Firearm Certificates

England and Wales, 1999 & 2000

11/01

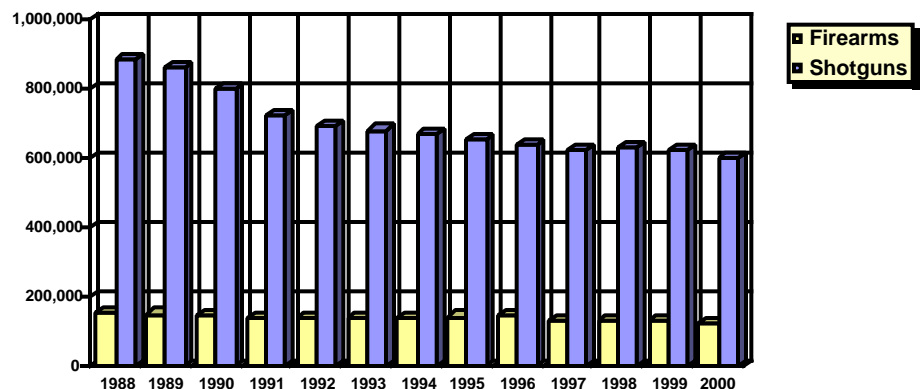
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28 June 2001

## MAIN POINTS

- 125,363 firearm certificates were on issue at the end of 2000, a decrease of 5 per cent on the figure at the end of 1999 (paragraph 3).
- The firearm certificates on issue covered 296,849 firearms, an increase of 0.1 per cent on those covered in 1999 (paragraph 4).
- The number of shotgun certificates on issue at the end of 2000 was 600,733, 4 per cent less than at the end of 1999 (paragraph 9).
- The shotgun certificates on issue covered 1,320,883 shotguns, half per cent down from 1999 (paragraph 9).
- Nearly one and a half and two per cent respectively of applications for new firearm and shotgun certificates made during 2000 were refused, slightly down from 1999 (paragraphs 5 and 10).
- The number of registered dealers in firearms was 2,072 at the end of 2000, one per cent lower than in 1999 (paragraph 12).
- Nearly three quarters of firearms (as opposed to shotguns) were rifles (figure 2).

**Figure 1 Firearm and shotgun certificates on issue**



## INTRODUCTION

1. This bulletin presents information on the issue of firearm and shotgun certificates under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997. Statistics on persons found guilty or cautioned for offences under these Acts are included in Chapter 3 of 'Criminal Statistics England and Wales'. Further details of the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997 are given in the notes at the end of this bulletin.

2. This bulletin contains statistics on firearm certificates, shotgun certificates (both including numbers of weapons possessed), firearms dealers, visitors' firearms and shotgun permits, European firearms passes, and Article 7 authorities (see notes). In the tables at the rear of the publication, tables 1 and 2 give year-on-year details of firearms and shotgun certificates. The overall statistics for the individual years 1999 and 2000 are in tables 3 to 9 and 10 to 16 respectively.

### **FIREARM CERTIFICATES (Tables 1, 3 and 10)**

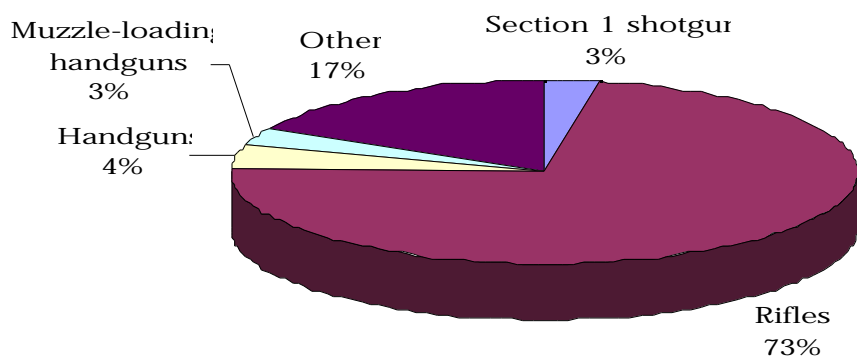
#### *Number of certificates on issue*

3. The number of firearm certificates on issue at the end of 2000 was 125,363, a decrease of 5.2 per cent on the 132,282 on issue at the end of 1999. This followed an increase of 0.3 per cent between 1998 and 1999. Certificates on issue fell steadily for a number of years from 216,300 in 1968 down to 136,800 in 1992. Between 1992 and 1996 the number of certificates on issue had been increasing slowly, but from 1997 have decreased and now stand at the lowest level on record. This is a direct result of the legislation banning handguns of more than .22 calibre with effect from 1 July 1997, followed by the banning of the smaller calibre handguns (up to and including .22 calibre) from 1 February 1998 (see note 12 for further details). Figures by police force area are given in tables 3 (1999) and 10 (2000), with the number of certificates per 100,000 population in 2000 illustrated in Figure 3.

## *Weapons covered by the certificates*

4. The certificates on issue at the end of 2000 covered 296,849 firearms, an increase of 0.1 per cent on the 296,426 firearms covered in 1999, which was in turn a 0.4 per cent increase over the 1998 figure. The 2000 figure is 28 per cent lower than in 1995. (The firearms covered by the certificates on issue are not necessarily those actually possessed. For some police forces the figures include firearms authorised for possession but not yet acquired.) For the second time, police forces were asked about the different types of firearm covered by the certificates in force, and 25 out of the total of 43 police forces were able to supply this information. In percentage terms it was as follows (please see note 12 concerning handguns):

**Figure 2**      **Types of firearms – percentage breakdown as at December 2000**



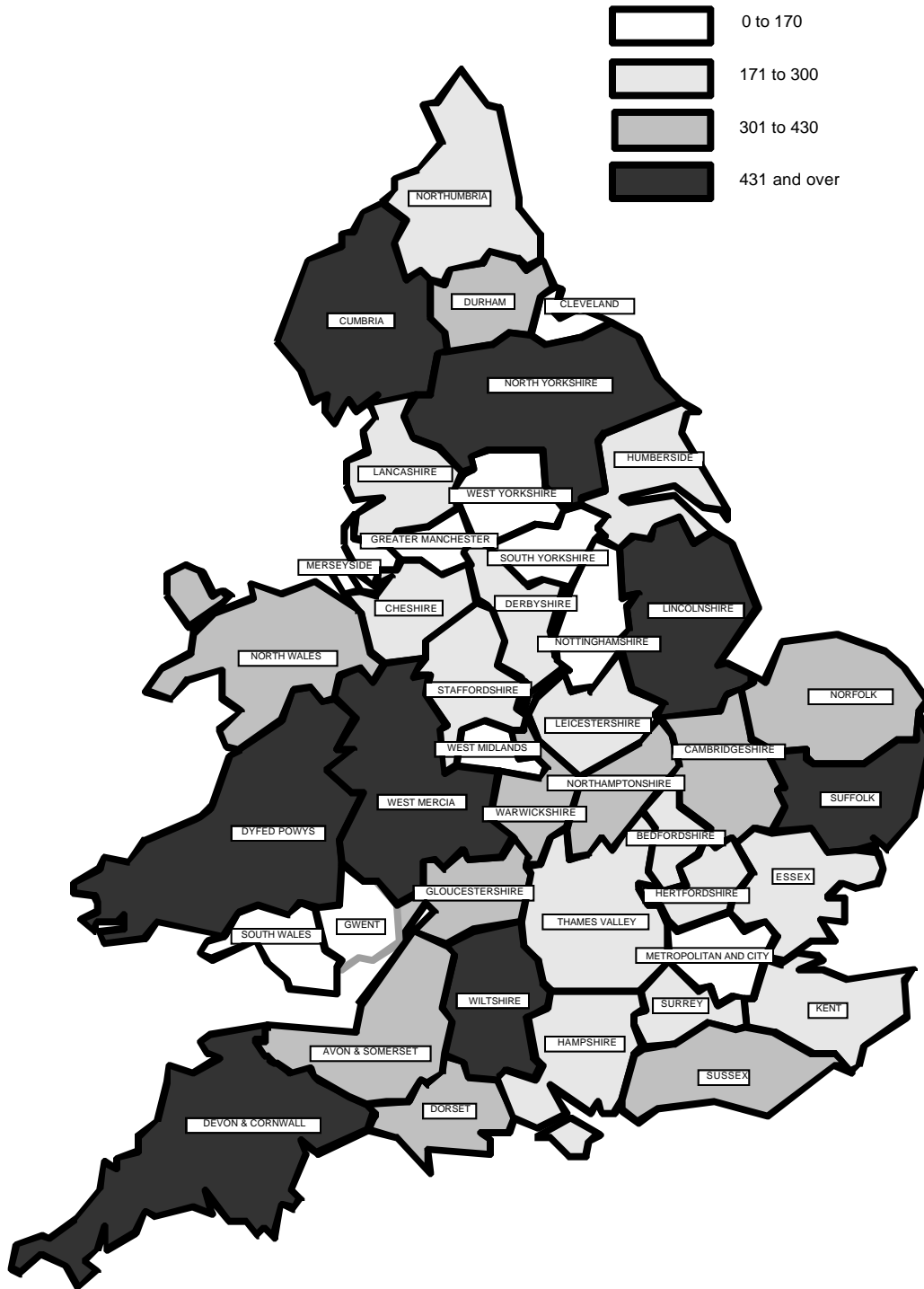
## *New applications and renewals*

5. The number of new firearm certificates granted in 2000 (5,867) was 17 per cent up on 1999 (5,020), there having been a 14 per cent decrease the previous year (5,854 in 1998). Nearly one and a half per cent of applications for new firearm certificates were refused in 2000, slightly down on 1999.

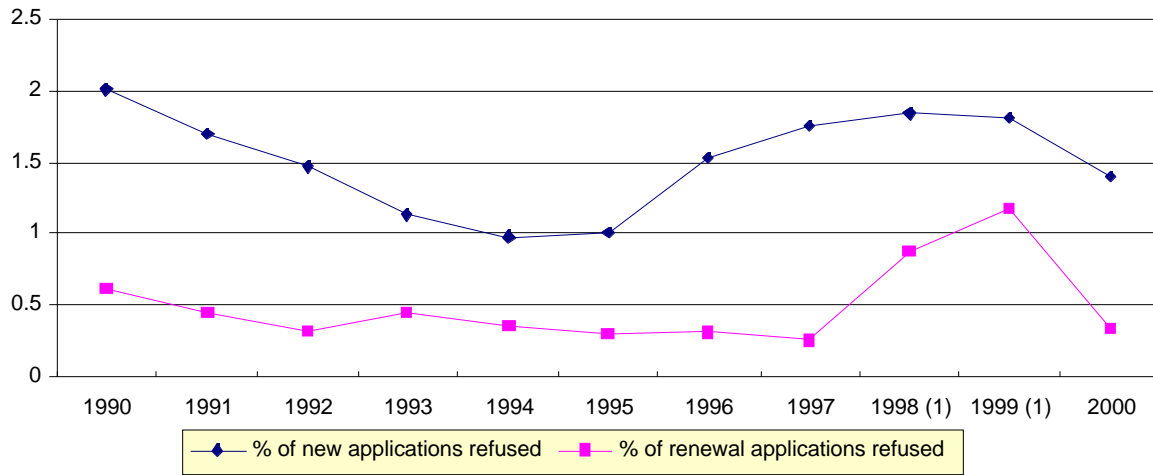
6. 26,182 applications for renewal of a firearm certificate were granted in 2000 compared with 253 during 1999. The low number of applications in 1998 and 1999 was caused by the change in the duration of firearms certificates from three years to five years, effective from 1 January 1995 (see Note 8), and those renewals granted in 1998 and 1999 being delayed renewals from 1997. 0.3 per cent of applications for renewal of firearm certificates were refused in 2000. Figure 4 below shows the

trend between 1990 and 1999 in the percentage of both new applications and renewals of firearms certificates that were refused.

**Figure 3** Firearm certificates per 100,000 population by police force area at 31 December 2000



**Figure 4 Percentage of new and renewal applications for firearm certificates refused**



(1) The number of renewal applications was very low in these years, and hence the percentage of these that were refused is less likely to be representative of trends than in other years.

### *Variations and revocations of certificates*

7. Simple one-for-one variations of firearm certificates are handled without charge. The number and type of firearms held on certificate may also be varied on application, and for such variations a fee is charged (see note 8). During 2000, 3,785 such applications for variation of firearm certificates were granted, which is 3 per cent of the number of certificates on issue at the end of the year.

8. Certificates can be revoked if the Chief Officer of Police is satisfied that the holder is no longer fitted to be entrusted with firearms. In 2000, 334 firearm certificates were revoked, 0.3 per cent of the number on issue, the same proportion as in 1999.

## **SHOTGUN CERTIFICATES (Tables 2, 4 and 11)**

### *Number of certificates on issue*

9. Shotgun certificates on issue were down by 4 per cent, from 625,692 in 1999 to 600,733 at the end of 2000. The number of certificates on issue reached a peak at 882,000 in 1988, since when there has been a reduction of more than one quarter. Details for each police force are given in tables 4 (1999) and 11 (2000), with the number of certificates per 100,000 population in 2000 illustrated in Figure 5. At the end of 2000, certificates in force covered 1,320,883 shotguns, down half per cent from 1,327,839 at the end of 1999.

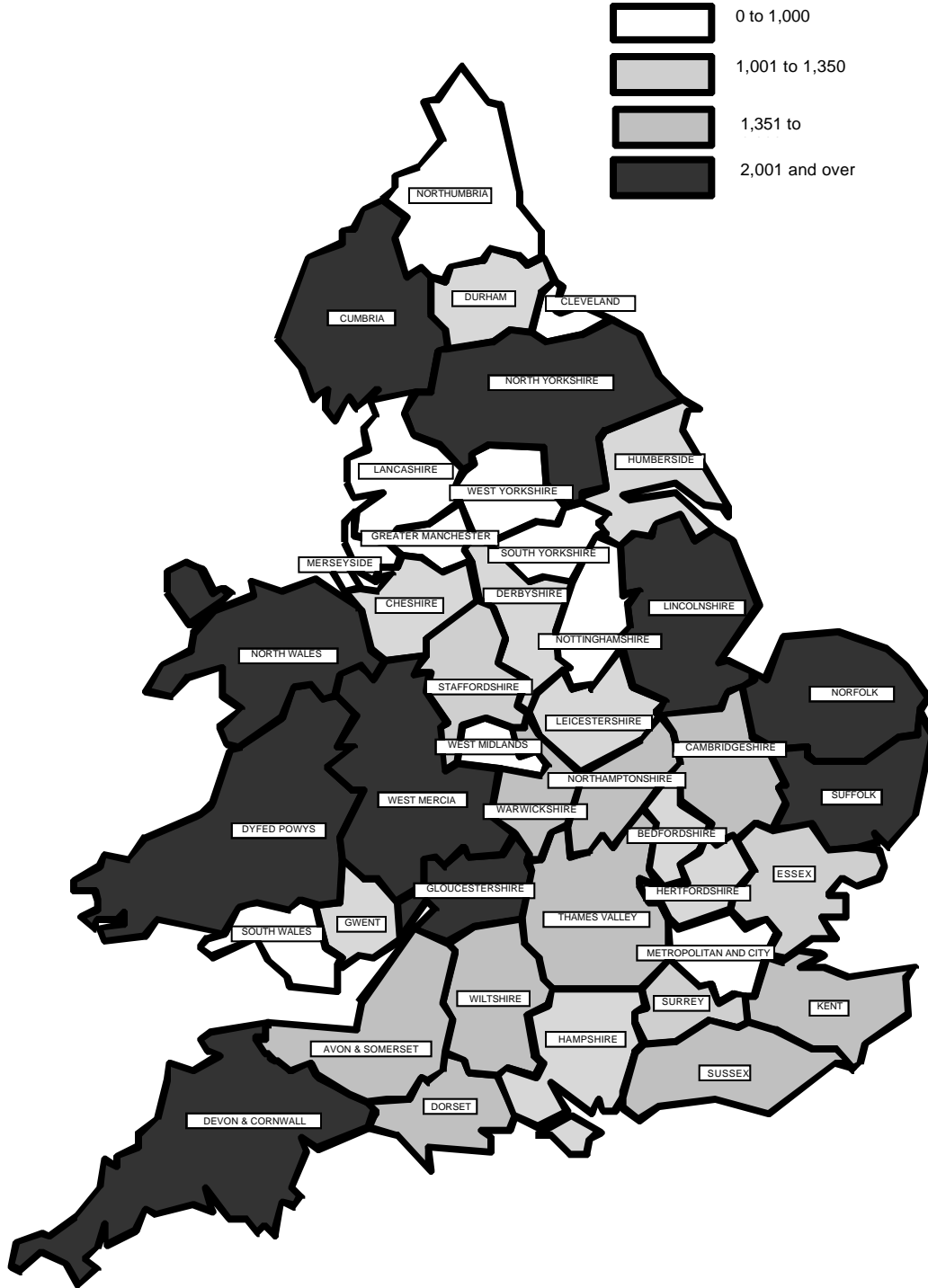
### *New applications, renewals and revocations*

10. During 2000, there were more new shotgun certificates granted (18,243) than in 1999 (15,589), up 17 per cent. There was a large increase in the number of shotgun certificates renewed in 2000 (141,348) as compared to 1999 (2,547), although the 2000 level was low compared to 1997 and earlier years. The low levels of renewals in 1998 and 1999 were caused by the change in the duration of shotgun certificates from three years to five years, effective from 1 January 1995 (see Note 8), with those renewals granted in 1998 and 1999 being delayed renewals from 1997. The reduction as compared to 1997 has coincided with revised procedures for the renewal of shotgun certificates, which now include additional checks being made, including home visits. Two per cent of new applications for shotgun certificates were refused during 2000. The proportion of the shotgun renewals that were refused in 2000 was 0.2 per cent.

11. During 2000, 940 shotgun certificates were revoked, 0.2 per cent of the number of certificates on issue at the end of the year.

Figure 5

Shotgun certificates per 100,000 population by police force area at 31 December 2000



## FIREARMS DEALERS (Table A, Tables 5 and 12)

12. The number of registered dealers did not vary much between 1991 and 1997, remaining at around 2,500, but dropped to 2,180 dealers in 1998, with subsequent smaller drops to 2,090 in 1999 and 2,070 in 2000, a reduction of one per cent in the latter year. Details for each police force are given in Table 5 (1999) and 12 (2000).

**Table A** Firearms dealers: applications for registration and renewal, granted and refused; dealers registered at 31 December.

England and Wales Numbers (2)

Year	Applications for registration from dealers				Dealers Registered at 31 December
	Previously unregistered		Previously registered		
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	
1991	166	14	- (1)	- (1)	2,560
1992	184	3	1,900	11	2,380
1993	161	13	140	1	2,440
1994	165	7	120	1	2,520
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	182	1	2,090
2000	133	0	186	2	2,070

(1) The extension of the period of the certificates from 1 year to 3 years in 1989 means that no applications were received from dealers who were previously registered.

(2) Please note some figures have been rounded.

## VISITORS' PERMITS (Table B, Tables 6, 7, 13 and 14)

13. During 2000 there were 1,412 applications granted on behalf of individuals for visitors' firearms permits (up 18 per cent on 1999), and 153 group applications (up half per cent) covering a further 871 persons (up twenty one per cent). In addition, visitors' shotgun permits were granted for 2,888 individuals (down 16 per cent on 1999) and 630 groups (down 2 per cent), covering 3,107 persons (up 4 per cent). Compared with 1999, the number of weapons covered by visitors' firearms permits increased by 49 per cent, from 2,345 to 3,503. Weapons covered by visitors' shotgun permits increased by 3 per cent (10,366 to 10,665).

**Table B**                    **Visitors' permits: applications granted for individuals and groups.**

England and Wales Numbers (1)

Year	On behalf of individuals	Group applications		Total persons covered	Total weapons covered
		Number granted	Persons covered		
<b>Firearms</b>					
1993	800	170	1,540	2,340	4,420
1994	990	130	1,000	1,990	3,830
1995	960	150	1,000	1,960	3,700
1996	1,210	170	1,190	2,400	4,890
1997	1,170	160	930	2,100	3,500
1998	1,380	170	970	2,400	3,300
1999	1,200	150	720	1,920	2,350
2000	1,410	150	870	2,280	3,500
<b>Shotguns</b>					
1993	2,530	480	2,740	5,270	8,760
1994	2,760	510	2,940	5,700	9,560
1995	2,850	500	3,000	5,850	10,200
1996	3,820	550	3,300	7,120	10,900
1997	3,380	570	3,190	6,570	11,800
1998	3,560	570	3,580	7,140	11,600
1999	3,430	640	2,990	6,420	10,370
2000	2,890	630	3,110	5,990	10,665

(1) Please note figures have been rounded.

**EUROPEAN FIREARMS PASSES AND ARTICLE 7 AUTHORITIES (Tables 8, 9, 15 and 16)**

14. Details of the issue of European Firearms Passes (EFPs) are given in tables 8 (1999) and 15 (2000), with details of Article 7 Authorities (A7as) in tables 9 (1999) and 16 (2000) (see note 11). The police began to issue these in January 1993. By the end of 2000, some 7,338 EFPs were on issue, compared with 7,307 at the end of 1999. During 2000, 15 applications for A7as were granted to certificate holders, fewer than the 21 applications granted in 1999.

**Table 1 Firearm certificates: applications for grant and renewal, granted and and refused; certificates on issue at 31 December**

England and Wales						Numbers (rounded)	
Year	Applications (1)				Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December	Number of firearms covered by certificates on issue at 31 December (2)	
	Grant of new firearm certificate		Renewal of firearm certificate				
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused			
1968	..	..	..	..	216,300	..	
1971	..	..	..	..	190,600	..	
1974	..	..	..	..	185,900	..	
1979	..	..	..	..	169,600	..	
1980	..	..	..	..	168,000	..	
1981	..	..	..	..	164,900	..	
1982	..	..	..	..	162,700	..	
1983	10,500	230	43,400 (3)	200	159,800	..	
1984	11,400	220	43,700 (3)	180	160,300	..	
1985	11,700	220	44,200 (3)	150	160,400	..	
1986	12,100	260	43,600 (3)	240	160,300	..	
1987	11,500	230	42,600 (3)	280	159,000	..	
1988	10,100	240	41,400 (3)	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 (4)	10	131,900	295,000	
1999	5,000	90	250 (4)	3	132,300	296,400	
2000	5,900	80	26,200	90	125,400	296,800	

(1) Information is provided in the 1999 and 2000 Firearms Certificates tables on applications for variation of a firearm certificate in most police force areas.

(2) Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995 (but see comment in parenthesis in paragraph 4 on page 3).

(3) Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

(4) The extension of the period of the certificates from 3 years to 5 years in 1995 meant that no renewals were due in 1998 and 1999. Those shown are delayed applications from 1997.

**Table 2 Shotgun certificates: applications for grant and renewal, granted and and refused; certificates on issue at 31 December**

England and Wales						Numbers (rounded)	
Year	Applications (1)				Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 December	Number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue at 31 December (2)	
	Grant of new shotgun certificate		Renewal of shotgun certificate				
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused			
1971	..	..	..	..	715,500	..	
1974	..	..	..	..	767,000	..	
1979	..	..	..	..	782,100	..	
1980	..	..	..	..	781,900	..	
1981	..	..	..	..	785,200	..	
1982	..	..	..	..	780,600	..	
1983	46,600	500	233,700	(1) 170	783,400	..	
1984	55,600	580	233,000	(1) 150	798,400	..	
1985	60,500	690	232,900	(1) 170	819,300	(3) ..	
1986	64,100	810	239,900	(1) 160	841,000	..	
1987	65,000	960	246,300	(1) 230	861,300	..	
1988	56,800	980	245,000	(1) 340	882,000	(3) ..	
1989	47,500	970	226,200	330	865,100	..	
1990	37,800	550	213,500	650 (1)	802,300	..	
1991	35,500	540	208,700	450	724,600	(4) ..	
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	(5) 60	627,600	1,343,100	
1999	15,600	440	2,500	(5) 10	625,700	1,327,800	
2000	18,200	350	141,300	280	600,700	1,320,900	

(1) Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

(2) Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995.

(3) The records of shot gun certificates were computerised for the Metropolitan Police District in 1985 and for Thames Valley in 1988 bringing to light previous under-recording of these figures by up to 7000 in each force

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

(5) The extension of the period of the certificates from 3 years to 5 years in 1995 meant that no renewals were due in 1998 and 1999. Those are delayed applications from 1997.

**Table 3 Firearm certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, granted and refused; revocations; certificates on issue at 31 December by police force area**

England and Wales 1999								Numbers		
Police force area	Applications						Revocations	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December	Number of firearms covered by certificates in force at 31 December	Average number of firearms per certificate
	Grant of new certificate		Renewal of certificate		Variation of certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	112	3	-	-	341	-	11	5,102	12,123	2.4
Bedfordshire	44	-	8	-	37	-	-	1,379	3,198	2.3
Cambridgeshire	77	-	5	-	60	-	6	2,694	5,716	2.1
Cheshire	10	-	1	-	18	-	-	2,618	5,822	2.2
Cleveland	41	-	3	-	26	-	1	833	1,756	2.1
Cumbria	78	-	-	-	63	-	2	3,149	6,207	2.0
Derbyshire	126	-	8	-	85	-	7	2,551	6,102	2.4
Devon and Cornwall	362	2	-	1	122	4	23	8,711	16,298	1.9
Dorset	102	-	-	-	23	1	7	2,800	5,331	1.9
Durham	79	4	-	-	40	1	9	2,215	4,131	1.9
Essex	205	1	7	-	8	1	8	3,974	9,998	2.5
Gloucestershire	95	12	7	-	150	9	3	2,443	5,485	2.2
Greater Manchester	76	2	-	-	173	-	3	2,399	5,015	2.1
Hampshire	138	3	7	-	56	4	29	4,930	11,752	2.4
Hertfordshire	63	1	-	-	250	-	1	1,747	4,271	2.4
Humberside	64	2	-	-	36	-	11	2,654	4,588	1.7
Kent	163	6	46	1	58	-	8	3,832	9,547	2.5
Lancashire	52	-	1	-	58	9	16	2,742	6,573	2.4
Leicestershire	82	2	-	-	86	2	6	1,789	3,507	2.0
Lincolnshire	126	-	43	-	154	-	1	3,502	7,252	2.1
London, City of	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	33	236	7.2
Merseyside	29	1	-	-	19	-	5	1,206	2,800	2.3
Metropolitan Police	243	8	-	-	372	7	21	6,875	16,508	2.4
Norfolk	125	1	-	-	88	4	6	3,627	9,313	2.6
Northamptonshire	94	1	-	-	52	-	8	2,228	5,389	2.4
Northumbria	135	2	8	-	93	1	14	3,518	7,588	2.2
North Yorkshire	225	-	2	1	109	8	16	5,654	11,542	2.0
Nottinghamshire	88	2	8	-	10	-	6	1,670	4,621	2.8
South Yorkshire	71	1	3	-	73	-	5	1,657	3,693	2.2
Staffordshire	70	1	19	-	126	-	6	2,432	5,849	2.4
Suffolk	96	-	2	-	52	1	5	3,668	6,638	1.8
Surrey	117	-	-	-	80	-	1	2,230	6,580	3.0
Sussex	217	1	13	-	73	-	5	5,507	15,084	2.7
Thames Valley	486	1	20	-	493	-	23	6,529	16,556	2.5
Warwickshire	54	-	3	-	70	1	3	1,776	4,170	2.3
West Mercia	170	9	-	-	158	13	19	5,521	13,058	2.4
West Midlands	162	1	7	-	199	2	4	1,785	4,663	2.6
West Yorkshire	119	5	15	-	60	7	9	2,874	6,318	2.2
Wiltshire	143	16	6	-	40	-	3	2,779	6,324	2.3
Dyfed-Powys	104	-	-	-	36	-	16	3,289	4,386	1.3
Gwent	52	1	-	-	18	-	6	985	2,454	2.5
North Wales	64	1	9	-	210	-	8	2,447	4,235	1.7
South Wales	60	1	-	-	41	-	-	1,928	3,749	1.9
All forces	5,020	91	253	3	4,316	75	341	132,282	296,426	2.2

**Table 4 Shot gun certificates: applications for grant and refused; revocations; certificates on issue at 31 December by police force area**

England and Wales 1999						Numbers		
Police force area	Applications				Revocations	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 December	Number of shotguns covered by certificates in force at 31 December	Average number of shotguns per certificate
	Grant of new certificate		Renewal of certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	407	11	-	-	44	21,928	47,823	2.2
Bedfordshire	136	1	107	-	1	7,144	14,684	2.1
Cambridgeshire	281	8	98	-	12	14,883	32,030	2.2
Cheshire	50	-	33	-	21	13,230	28,345	2.1
Cleveland	89	1	16	-	2	2,651	5,132	1.9
Cumbria	183	-	-	-	8	10,814	21,822	2.0
Derbyshire	378	7	144	-	14	12,676	29,102	2.3
Devon and Cornwall	767	17	-	-	57	36,150	73,148	2.0
Dorset	236	-	-	-	8	11,218	24,578	2.2
Durham	142	9	1	1	14	6,705	13,577	2.0
Essex	750	7	146	-	41	21,195	45,668	2.2
Gloucestershire	239	22	98	-	23	12,028	25,714	2.1
Greater Manchester	199	3	15	-	13	9,605	20,515	2.1
Hampshire	523	10	180	-	55	21,880	48,578	2.2
Hertfordshire	245	1	-	7	19	9,923	22,235	2.2
Humberside	239	14	-	-	16	10,581	22,649	2.1
Kent	433	28	3	-	-	22,312	46,192	2.1
Lancashire	129	16	5	-	27	12,734	28,318	2.2
Leicestershire	300	6	-	-	29	11,481	24,205	2.1
Lincolnshire	529	3	337	-	6	16,497	38,685	2.3
London, City of	4	-	1	-	-	35	74	2.1
Merseyside	94	6	-	-	15	4,293	8,051	1.9
Metropolitan Police	1,475	29	-	-	50	32,407	61,698	1.9
Norfolk	628	11	-	-	34	22,005	53,891	2.4
Northamptonshire	392	3	-	-	18	9,856	21,814	2.2
Northumbria	271	11	47	-	43	9,593	20,299	2.1
North Yorkshire	343	5	38	-	29	19,189	38,563	2.0
Nottinghamshire	266	7	68	1	8	9,715	22,903	2.4
South Yorkshire	304	10	60	-	18	8,383	16,701	2.0
Staffordshire	276	7	141	-	25	14,996	31,916	2.1
Suffolk	353	4	78	-	19	18,217	41,106	2.3
Surrey	284	-	-	-	14	11,418	24,414	2.1
Sussex	556	10	154	1	28	22,831	48,309	2.1
Thames Valley	1,590	13	406	-	45	30,208	66,294	2.2
Warwickshire	216	3	48	1	12	9,651	20,303	2.1
West Mercia	585	20	-	-	36	30,835	64,955	2.1
West Midlands	244	6	105	1	22	10,585	20,660	2.0
West Yorkshire	285	10	74	-	22	11,654	23,147	2.0
Wiltshire	310	89	140	-	14	12,420	28,010	2.3
Dyfed-Powys	375	17	1	1	81	20,107	37,861	1.9
Gwent	143	-	-	-	19	7,241	14,692	2.0
North Wales	182	9	3	-	37	14,126	28,600	2.0
South Wales	158	4	-	-	4	10,292	20,578	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,589</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>625,692</b>	<b>1,327,839</b>	<b>2.1</b>

**Table 5** Firearms dealers: applications for registration granted and refused; removals from register; dealers registered at 31 December by police force area

England and Wales 1999						Numbers
Police force area	New applications for registration from dealers		Applications for new certificates from registered dealers		Dealers removed from register	Dealers registered at 31 December
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
Avon and Somerset	2	-	5	-	5	70
Bedfordshire	2	-	-	-	-	14
Cambridgeshire	1	-	4	-	-	31
Cheshire	1	-	2	-	-	28
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	9
Cumbria	3	-	2	-	2	36
Derbyshire	1	-	1	-	1	39
Devon and Cornwall	7	-	-	-	3	103
Dorset	6	-	13	-	1	47
Durham	-	-	-	-	-	13
Essex	4	-	14	-	5	110
Gloucestershire	4	-	-	-	5	29
Greater Manchester	1	-	4	-	7	33
Hampshire	5	-	8	-	5	57
Hertfordshire	3	-	15	-	3	55
Humberside	1	-	4	-	1	35
Kent	9	-	10	-	4	74
Lancashire	-	-	3	-	1	35
Leicestershire	2	-	1	-	2	31
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	50 (1)
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	14
Metropolitan Police	11	1	14	-	25	184
Norfolk	-	-	3	-	-	36
Northamptonshire	2	-	-	-	2	23
Northumbria	1	-	3	-	4	31
North Yorkshire	3	-	3	-	1	39
Nottinghamshire	1	-	-	-	-	35
South Yorkshire	3	1	2	-	5	23
Staffordshire	4	-	-	-	4	42
Suffolk	5	-	7	-	2	51
Surrey	7	-	13	-	5	78
Sussex	5	1	3	-	12	96
Thames Valley	16	-	16	-	7	147
Warwickshire	2	-	2	-	5	37
West Mercia	2	-	9	1	10	88
West Midlands	4	-	4	-	3	73
West Yorkshire	48	-	5	-	50	44
Wiltshire	6	-	6	-	4	55
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	1	-	1	25
Gwent	-	-	-	-	1	12
North Wales	-	-	1	-	2	31
South Wales	-	-	4	-	1	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>2,094</b>

(1) Estimate

**Table 6** Visitors' firearm permits: applications for groups and individuals, persons and weapons covered by police force area

England and Wales 1999							Numbers	
Police force area	New applications					Weapons covered by new applications	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications				Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Persons covered by group applications			
Avon and Somerset	102	-	4	-	32	146	6	-
Bedfordshire	5	-	1	-	2	6	-	-
Cambridgeshire	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Cheshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cumbria	19	-	-	-	-	48	-	-
Derbyshire	4	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	54	-	-	-	-	71	-	-
Dorset	136	-	-	-	-	208	-	-
Durham	14	-	-	-	-	24	-	-
Essex	5	-	2	-	13	22	-	-
Gloucestershire	7	-	1	-	6	11	-	-
Greater Manchester	4	-	2	-	39	55	-	-
Hampshire	147	-	2	-	12	206	3	-
Hertfordshire	42	-	-	-	-	53	-	-
Humberside	4	-	1	-	6	12	-	-
Kent	33	-	5	-	26	57	-	-
Lancashire	5	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Leicestershire	5	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Lincolnshire	2 (1)	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	36	-	-	-	-	75	-	-
Norfolk	21	-	-	-	-	30	-	-
Northamptonshire	14	-	8	-	53	83	-	-
Northumbria	10	-	17	-	55	72	-	-
North Yorkshire	10	-	21	-	23	41	-	-
Nottinghamshire	12	-	3	-	10	23	-	-
South Yorkshire	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Staffordshire	9	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Suffolk	55	-	26	-	78	138	-	-
Surrey	153	-	37	-	214	343	-	-
Sussex	86	-	-	-	-	114	1	-
Thames Valley	71	-	1	-	6	102	3	-
Warwickshire	6	-	3	-	16	46	-	-
West Mercia	2	-	3	-	19	29	-	-
West Midlands	15	-	3	-	6	20	4	-
West Yorkshire	4	-	5	-	72	83	-	-
Wiltshire	91	-	6	-	30	166	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	1	-	4	4	-	-
Gwent	9	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
North Wales	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
South Wales	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>

(1) Estimate

**Table 7** Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals, persons and weapons covered by police force area

England and Wales 1999							Numbers	
Police force area	New applications					Weapons covered by new applications	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications				Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Persons covered by group applications			
Avon and Somerset	111	-	5	-	57	351	13	-
Bedfordshire	46	-	19	-	51	164	-	-
Cambridgeshire	52	-	-	-	-	89	-	-
Cheshire	8	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
Cleveland	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Cumbria	74	-	2	-	18	238	-	-
Derbyshire	14	-	5	-	16	32	1	-
Devon and Cornwall	136	-	49	-	140	441	-	-
Dorset	70	-	6	-	42	206	-	-
Durham	119	1	-	-	-	241	4	-
Essex	27	-	19	-	78	142	-	-
Gloucestershire	152	-	6	-	43	315	-	-
Greater Manchester	7	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
Hampshire	307	-	24	-	285	982	8	-
Hertfordshire	41	-	2	-	18	87	-	-
Humberside	52	-	2	-	18	151	2	-
Kent	31	-	33	-	203	380	-	-
Lancashire	28	-	-	-	-	68	2	-
Leicestershire	25	-	1	-	7	58	-	-
Lincolnshire	73 (1)	-	9 (1)	-	57 (1)	186 (1)	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	5	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Metropolitan Police	316	3	126	-	384	1,191	-	-
Norfolk	35	-	21	-	122	224	-	-
Northamptonshire	111	-	36	-	148	447	-	-
Northumbria	49	-	17	-	61	230	2	-
North Yorkshire	61	-	64	-	288	830	-	-
Nottinghamshire	8	-	1	-	2	14	-	-
South Yorkshire	7	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
Staffordshire	22	-	1	-	10	43	-	-
Suffolk	66	-	82	-	266	375	-	-
Surrey	33	-	1	-	3	58	-	-
Sussex	184	-	5	-	35	386	-	-
Thames Valley	838	-	7	-	28	803	47	-
Warwickshire	15	-	4	-	24	55	-	-
West Mercia	46	-	31	-	157	309	-	-
West Midlands	17	-	3	-	31	20	-	-
West Yorkshire	6	-	1	-	15	37	-	-
Wiltshire	142	-	23	-	137	646	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	16	-	13	-	86	145	-	-
Gwent	58	-	-	-	-	112	-	-
North Wales	16	-	24	-	152	244	-	-
South Wales	3	-	1	-	6	11	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,988</b>	<b>10,366</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>-</b>

(1) Estimate

**Table 8 European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation; cancellations; passes on issue at 31 December by police force area**

England and Wales 1999						Numbers
Police force area	Applications			Cancellations	Passes on issue at 31 December	
	Grant of new certificate	Renewal of certificate	Variation of certificate			
Avon and Somerset	46	-	-	-	193	
Bedfordshire	-	-	-	-	72	
Cambridgeshire	35	-	-	-	178	
Cheshire	27	1	-	-	44	
Cleveland	6	-	-	-	6	
Cumbria	11	2	-	-	51	
Derbyshire	28	-	7	-	195	
Devon and Cornwall	29	-	-	-	306	
Dorset	33	10	-	-	127	
Durham	11	-	1	-	42	
Essex	64	9	31	-	104	
Gloucestershire	160	1	-	3	166	
Greater Manchester	29	1	-	3	43	
Hampshire	115	-	65	-	560	
Hertfordshire	21	-	20	2	206	
Humberside	17	1	5	4	75	
Kent	223	2	-	3	535	
Lancashire	52	-	1	1	201	
Leicestershire	24	-	-	-	107	
Lincolnshire	24 (1)	-	-	1	122 (1)	
London, City of	-	-	-	-	1	
Merseyside	4	-	2	-	45	
Metropolitan Police	321 (2)	-	45	24	..	
Norfolk	28	-	3	-	181	
Northamptonshire	21	25	3	-	91	
Northumbria	19	-	3	16	91	
North Yorkshire	50	1	-	109	53	
Nottinghamshire	26	-	17	5	162	
South Yorkshire	43	-	-	2	53	
Staffordshire	36	2	-	7	141	
Suffolk	23	-	-	-	140	
Surrey	45	21	8	3	211	
Sussex	91	3	122	59	579	
Thames Valley	124	6	20	17	789	
Warwickshire	24	-	10	6	135	
West Mercia	34	-	13	2	302	
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	227	
West Yorkshire	26	-	-	4	155	
Wiltshire	49	-	-	-	93	
Dyfed-Powys	22	-	-	-	22	
Gwent	17	-	-	-	74	
North Wales	27	-	-	7	163	
South Wales	30	-	8	3	266	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>7,307</b>	

(1) Estimate

(2) Includes renewals.

**Table 9 Article 7 authorities: applications for grant, granted and refused; variations; cancellations by police force area**

England and Wales 1999										Numbers	
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	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridgeshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheshire	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derbyshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dorset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hertfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancashire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	7	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northamptonshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nottinghamshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surrey	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Thames Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warwickshire	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Mercia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wiltshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gwent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Wales	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 10 Firearm certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, granted and refused; revocations; certificates on issue at 31 December by police force area**

England and Wales 2000										Numbers
Police force area	Applications						Revocations	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December	Number of firearms covered by certificates in force at 31 December	Average number of firearms per certificate
	Grant of new certificate		Renewal of certificate		Variation of certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	236	3	1,048	1	250 (1)	2	10	4,812	12,064	2.5
Bedfordshire	59	1	183	-	45	-	2	1,323	3,305	2.5
Cambridgeshire	90	2	505	1	60 (1)	-	4	2,531	5,598	2.2
Cheshire	64	2	355	-	30	1	4	2,412	5,525	2.3
Cleveland	33	-	181	1	20	-	-	774	1,760	2.3
Cumbria	136	1	850	-	60	-	3	3,059	6,478	2.1
Derbyshire	163	-	527	-	91	-	5	2,441	5,777	2.4
Devon and Cornwall	432	3	1,688	5	184	3	28	8,171	15,181	1.9
Dorset	62	1	719	-	13	-	2	2,682	5,507	2.1
Durham	110	5	454	-	42	-	9	2,095	4,795	2.3
Essex	219	2	862	3	10	2	2	3,957	10,565	2.7
Gloucestershire	121	2	477	11	53	10	3	2,337	5,436	2.3
Greater Manchester	106	-	391	2	59	1	5	2,013	4,992	2.5
Hampshire	168	6	1,032	9	84	-	38	4,419	11,440	2.6
Hertfordshire	108	-	389	-	291	-	2	1,859	4,866	2.6
Humberside	141	7	506	3	54	2	9	2,607	4,938	1.9
Kent	212	2	906	8	116	1	4	3,730	9,213 (1)	2.5
Lancashire	107	4	421	5	16	-	13	2,493	6,233	2.5
Leicestershire	103	-	337	-	37	-	6	1,704	3,614	2.1
Lincolnshire	126	1	875	-	144	-	4	3,426	7,619	2.2
London, City of	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	32	228	7.1
Merseyside	37	2	210	1	20	-	4	1,091	2,735	2.5
Metropolitan Police	281	3	1,070	11	142	-	65	5,399	14,265	2.6
Norfolk	181	-	773	1	57	1	4	3,414	9,076	2.7
Northamptonshire	87	2	487	-	69	-	5	2,156	5,411	2.5
Northumbria	170	1	725	1	183	-	7	3,396	7,550	2.2
North Yorkshire	225	3	1,012	1	117	11	6	5,434	11,310	2.1
Nottinghamshire	86	-	339	1	154	-	1	1,633	4,863	3.0
South Yorkshire	88	4	313	1	35	1	4	1,566	3,705	2.4
Staffordshire	124	-	601	2	150 (1)	-	6	2,291	5,885	2.6
Suffolk	152	-	859	3	76	4	5	3,505	6,493	1.9
Surrey	163	2	645	1	80 (1)	-	4	2,710	8,245	3.0
Sussex	266	2	1,151	2	84	1	4	5,443	15,052	2.8
Thames Valley	277	2	1,487	1	300 (1)	1	12	6,229	16,794	2.7
Warwickshire	81	1	397	-	31	-	1	1,710	4,183	2.4
West Mercia	204	7	515	3	129	12	13	5,497	13,369	2.4
West Midlands	74	-	340	-	53	1	5	1,703	4,651	2.7
West Yorkshire	110	3	558	4	77	1	2	2,583	6,182	2.4
Wiltshire	188	1	646	1	59	-	4	2,633	6,341	2.4
Dyfed-Powys	84	1	335	4	26	-	15	3,047	4,855	1.6
Gwent	37	1	134	1	36	1	1	940	2,481	2.6
North Wales	104	4	582	1	223	-	7	2,326	4,018 (1)	1.7
South Wales	52	1	292	1	25	-	6	1,780	4,251	2.4
<b>All forces</b>	<b>5,867</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>26,182</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3,785</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>125,363</b>	<b>296,849</b>	<b>2.4</b>

(1) Estimate

**Table 11 Shotgun certificates: applications for grant and refused; revocations; certificates on issue at 31 December by police force area**

England and Wales 2000							Numbers		
Police force area	Applications				Revocations	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 December	Number of shotguns covered by certificates in force at 31 December	Average number of shotguns per certificate	
	Grant of new certificate		Renewal of certificate						
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused					
Avon and Somerset	512	7	5,091	5	35	21,230	47,570	2.2	
Bedfordshire	143	-	1,011	-	5	6,908	14,920	2.2	
Cambridgeshire	339	6	3,251	4	14	14,238	32,060	2.3	
Cheshire	259	13	2,855	2	13	12,688	27,797	2.2	
Cleveland	66	2	651	2	2	2,503	5,159	2.1	
Cumbria	298	1	3,015	-	8	10,427	21,360	2.0	
Derbyshire	475	2	2,986	-	16	12,237	28,855	2.4	
Devon and Cornwall	919	20	8,221	21	53	34,291	72,516	2.1	
Dorset	348	1	3,305	-	12	10,919	24,241	2.2	
Durham	209	12	1,523	7	13	6,348	12,845	2.0	
Essex	688	7	4,707	10	24	21,291	46,638	2.2	
Gloucestershire	288	9	2,539	9	15	11,591	25,243	2.2	
Greater Manchester	307	4	2,118	-	17	9,067	20,039	2.2	
Hampshire	562	10	5,443	10	52	21,196	48,485	2.3	
Hertfordshire	469	-	2,524	-	10	10,754	24,552	2.3	
Humberside	360	14	1,994	15	22	10,352	25,079	2.4	
Kent	743	16	5,466	6	14	21,731	45,417 (1)	2.1	
Lancashire	370	8	2,290	15	33	10,254	27,223	2.7	
Leicestershire	393	4	2,528	3	22	11,109	27,244	2.5	
Lincolnshire	333	11	4,153	1	10	16,100	39,263	2.4	
London, City of	3	-	3	-	-	38	74	1.9	
Merseyside	99	6	893	6	16	4,027	7,778	1.9	
Metropolitan Police	1,384	34	6,153	35	139	28,139	55,099	2.0	
Norfolk	783	11	5,543	9	30	21,144	53,405	2.5	
Northamptonshire	236	5	2,365	2	15	9,547	21,619	2.3	
Northumbria	285	5	2,012	7	18	9,285	20,662	2.2	
North Yorkshire	483	7	4,154	-	14	18,760	38,114	2.0	
Nottinghamshire	250	3	2,204	11	13	9,299	22,567	2.4	
South Yorkshire	424	9	1,947	3	10	8,198	16,602	2.0	
Staffordshire	359	15	3,864	8	21	14,256	31,627	2.2	
Suffolk	627	1	4,574	3	13	17,591	40,946	2.3	
Surrey	557	3	3,270	-	22	13,083	28,297	2.2	
Sussex	595	7	4,993	12	15	22,008	47,962	2.2	
Thames Valley	987	24	7,623	6	32	28,902	65,095	2.3	
Warwickshire	244	1	2,328	2	12	9,069	19,473	2.1	
West Mercia	889	19	5,018	7	32	30,311	65,654	2.2	
West Midlands	283	9	2,361	11	25	9,998	21,043	2.1	
West Yorkshire	297	5	2,843	4	16	10,993	23,009	2.1	
Wiltshire	519	9	3,048	6	12	12,096	27,762	2.3	
Dyfed-Powys	312	12	3,445	19	52	18,689	35,606	1.9	
Gwent	141	2	1,287	15	11	6,884	14,510	2.1	
North Wales	248	8	3,815	1	19	13,834	28,083 (1)	2.0	
South Wales	157	4	1,934	2	13	9,348	19,390	2.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,243</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>141,348</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>600,733</b>	<b>1,320,883</b>	<b>2.2</b>	

(1) Estimate

**Table 12** Firearms dealers: applications for registration granted and refused; removals from register; dealers registered at 31 December by police force area

England and Wales 2000						Numbers
Police force area	New applications for registration from dealers		Applications for new certificates from registered dealers		Dealers removed from register	Dealers registered at 31 December
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
Avon and Somerset	2	-	7	-	4	71
Bedfordshire	5	-	-	-	-	13
Cambridgeshire	3	-	4	-	-	34
Cheshire	1	-	4	-	-	28
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	9
Cumbria	1	-	1	-	4	33
Derbyshire	3	-	6	-	1	41
Devon and Cornwall	5	-	5	1	4	104
Dorset	1	-	8	-	3	45
Durham	1	-	-	-	-	12
Essex	4	-	8	-	5	109
Gloucestershire	1	-	4	-	-	29
Greater Manchester	4	-	2	-	6	36
Hampshire	2	-	5	-	9	50
Hertfordshire	1	-	9	-	-	60
Humberside	4	-	4	-	1	40
Kent	4	-	5	-	3	72
Lancashire	4	-	2	1	5	34
Leicestershire	3	-	3	-	4	30
Lincolnshire	1	-	5	-	-	47
London, City of	1	-	-	-	-	1
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	14
Metropolitan Police	11	-	10	-	10	165
Norfolk	2	-	3	-	1	38
Northamptonshire	9	-	3	-	7	25
Northumbria	-	-	5	-	1	30
North Yorkshire	4	-	1	-	2	43
Nottinghamshire	2	-	3	-	-	35
South Yorkshire	5	-	3	-	2	26
Staffordshire	2	-	5	-	2	41
Suffolk	3	-	5	-	1	47
Surrey	11	-	9	-	-	87
Sussex	3	-	8	-	7	92
Thames Valley	7	-	6	-	2	138
Warwickshire	3	-	3	-	-	38
West Mercia	4	-	11	-	4	88
West Midlands	8	-	8	-	7	69
West Yorkshire	2	-	4	-	3	43
Wiltshire	6	-	12	-	1	60
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	3	-	-	25
Gwent	-	-	1	-	-	12
North Wales	-	-	-	-	3	28
South Wales	-	-	1	-	3	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>2,072</b>

**Table 13** Visitors' firearm permits: applications for groups and individuals, persons and weapons covered by police force area

England and Wales 2000							Numbers	
Police force area	New applications					Weapons covered by new applications	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications				Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Persons covered by group applications			
Avon and Somerset	80	-	7	-	57	160	-	-
Bedfordshire	15	-	2	-	15	15	-	-
Cambridgeshire	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cheshire	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	23	-	-	-	-	38	-	-
Derbyshire	2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	17	-	7	-	16	43	-	-
Dorset	132	-	3	-	12	158	-	-
Durham	20	-	-	-	-	23	-	-
Essex	-	-	3	-	14	24	-	-
Gloucestershire	9	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	127	-	-	-	-	194	-	-
Hertfordshire	24	-	-	-	-	29	1	-
Humberside	12	-	-	-	-	22	-	-
Kent	40	-	5	-	29	43	-	-
Lancashire	6	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Leicestershire	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Lincolnshire	2	-	1	-	3	7	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Metropolitan Police	18	-	1	-	13	39	-	-
Norfolk	10	-	-	-	-	13	1	-
Northamptonshire	18	-	2	-	4	24	-	-
Northumbria	12	-	20	-	55	72	4	-
North Yorkshire	14	-	2	-	12	35	-	-
Nottinghamshire	-	-	1	-	2	6	-	-
South Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Staffordshire	11	-	1	-	2	16	-	-
Suffolk	35	-	18	-	49	87	-	-
Surrey	531	-	59	-	474	1,960	-	-
Sussex	54	-	-	-	-	69	-	-
Thames Valley	48	-	6	-	14	71	-	-
Warwickshire	4	-	5	-	33	46	-	-
West Mercia	10	-	7	-	39	65	-	-
West Midlands	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
West Yorkshire	5	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Wiltshire	108	-	1	-	5	152	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	1	-	7	7	-	-
Gwent	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
North Wales	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
South Wales	-	-	1	-	16	27	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>3,503</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>

**Table 14** Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals, persons and weapons covered by police force area

England and Wales 2000								Numbers	
Police force area	New applications					Weapons covered by new applications	Variation applications		
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications				Granted	Refused	
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Persons covered by group applications				
Avon and Somerset	124	-	12	-	133	473	-	-	
Bedfordshire	10	-	15	-	66	112	-	-	
Cambridgeshire	9	-	8	-	24	45	-	-	
Cheshire	11	-	1	-	2	15	-	-	
Cleveland	5	-	1	-	3	11	-	-	
Cumbria	70	-	6	-	50	227	-	-	
Derbyshire	10	-	1	-	2	21	-	-	
Devon and Cornwall	63	-	28	-	139	386	-	-	
Dorset	94	-	5	-	28	203	-	-	
Durham	92	-	1	-	8	196	-	-	
Essex	22	-	21	-	78	131	-	-	
Gloucestershire	93	-	11	-	67	225	-	-	
Greater Manchester	6	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	
Hampshire	305	-	25	-	271	1,008	-	-	
Hertfordshire	76	-	-	-	-	130	-	-	
Humberside	55	-	2	-	17	126	-	-	
Kent	39	-	42	-	280	529	-	-	
Lancashire	28	-	1	-	8	97	-	-	
Leicestershire	46	-	-	-	-	74	-	-	
Lincolnshire	22	-	29	-	122	253	-	-	
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Merseyside	5	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	
Metropolitan Police	419	1	14	-	44	947	2	-	
Norfolk	44	-	24	-	155	283	7	-	
Northamptonshire	213	-	33	-	143	721	-	-	
Northumbria	43	-	30	-	117	307	3	-	
North Yorkshire	56	-	63	-	311	706	-	-	
Nottinghamshire	5	-	2	-	5	24	-	-	
South Yorkshire	4	-	2	-	7	25	-	-	
Staffordshire	27	-	3	-	14	63	-	-	
Suffolk	57	2	51	-	224	445	-	-	
Surrey	25	-	11	-	29	68	-	-	
Sussex	158	-	3	-	21	355	1	-	
Thames Valley	253	-	97	-	212	764	-	-	
Warwickshire	10	-	6	-	26	14	-	-	
West Mercia	55	-	31	-	179	312	-	-	
West Midlands	40 (1)	-	-	-	-	100 (1)	-	-	
West Yorkshire	11	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	
Wiltshire	201	-	17	-	120	732	-	-	
Dyfed-Powys	16	-	15	-	73	169	-	-	
Gwent	47	-	3	-	10	117	8	-	
North Wales	18	-	16	-	119	201	-	-	
South Wales	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,888</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>10,665</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>	

(1) Estimate

**Table 15** European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation; cancellations; passes on issue at 31 December by police force area

England and Wales 2000				Numbers	
Police force area	Applications			Cancellations	Passes on issue at 31 December
	Grant of new certificate	Renewal of certificate	Variation of certificate		
Avon and Somerset	64	1	-	1	63
Bedfordshire	21	4	-	1	52
Cambridgeshire	25	2	-	3	122
Cheshire	24	4	-	-	26
Cleveland	6	-	-	1	14
Cumbria	9	2	-	18	44
Derbyshire	110	4	-	5	120
Devon and Cornwall	52	42	-	26	333
Dorset	30	8	-	1	132
Durham	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	65	24	25	-	114
Gloucestershire	37	25	-	13	188
Greater Manchester	24	-	-	5	66
Hampshire	73	69	17	4	633
Hertfordshire	46	50	24	1	179
Humberside	11	2	-	3	72
Kent	142	49	-	19	324
Lancashire	20	-	-	-	31
Leicestershire	46	3	-	2	76
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	1
Merseyside	1	7	3	-	36
Metropolitan Police	462	10	-	7	535
Norfolk	24	18	8	3	178
Northamptonshire	49	12	-	5	132
Northumbria	13	13	2	18	86
North Yorkshire	46	6	-	7	92
Nottinghamshire	19	-	-	-	19
South Yorkshire	44	1	-	7	75
Staffordshire	67	25	-	17	153
Suffolk	19	24	3	3	117
Surrey	110	160	-	15	450
Sussex	75	17	-	17	629
Thames Valley	308	32	-	50	907
Warwickshire	28	37	9	7	151
West Mercia	36	35	9	28	310
West Midlands	27	22	-	16	238
West Yorkshire	31	7	-	29	157
Wiltshire	56	14	-	7	142
Dyfed-Powys	17	-	-	-	21
Gwent	16	7	-	4	81
North Wales	18	-	-	1	180
South Wales	26	2	-	1	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>7,338</b>

**Table 16 Article 7 authorities: applications for grant, granted and refused; variations; cancellations by police force area**

England and Wales 2000										Numbers	
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	3	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	1
Devon and Cornwall	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dorset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hertfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancashire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northamptonshire	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nottinghamshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surrey	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thames Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warwickshire	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Mercia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wiltshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gwent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

## NOTES

### (a) FIREARMS CERTIFICATE STATISTICS

#### *Availability of statistics*

1. The previous bulletin in this series, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 22/99, gave figures up to 1998. Statistics on **offenders found guilty or cautioned under the Firearms Acts** are published in 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales' Table 3.13 and in 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales', Supplementary Volumes 1 and 2. Further offences are included within the offence groups 'wounding' and 'other wounding' but these cannot be identified in the statistics. Statistics on **notifiable offences in which firearms were reported to have been used or misappropriated** are published in Chapter 3 of 'Criminal Statistics', with a breakdown of offences by police force area in Supplementary Volume 3.

#### *Accuracy of the statistics*

2. The statistics in this bulletin are compiled by each police force and included in an annual aggregate return to the Home Office. They are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

#### *Coverage of the statistics*

3. The term 'variation' was more clearly defined in the 1991 statistics to cover only those changes which increase the number of firearms authorised by the certificate, i.e. where a fee for variation would be charged. This is responsible for much of the apparent decrease in variations since 1990.

#### *Regulations on the issue of firearm and shotgun certificates*

4. All persons acquiring or in possession of a firearm or shotgun must have a certificate issued by the Chief Police Officer for the police force area in which the person lives, unless they were 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.

5. For weapons covered by section 1 of the 1968 Firearms Act (as amended) which include rifles, large magazine smooth bore guns, muzzle-loading revolvers and specially dangerous air rifles, 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 attaching (a standard condition is that weapons and ammunition are held in a secure place when not in use).

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 Act as amended by section 1 of the 1988 Act; their possession can only be granted 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. Some renewals occur because the person has moved residence to a different police force area. 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 1 to 3 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. The conditions for exemptions from holding a firearm certificate were revised in sections 15 to 19 of the 1988 Act. Visitors' permits were introduced which allow the holder to possess a firearm or shotgun without holding a certificate. Permits are in force for a period not exceeding twelve months. Group applications may be made for up to twenty persons (section 17 of the 1988 Act).

11. Each EC 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. The Regulations made provision for the police to issue two new documents to British residents: the European Firearms Pass (EFP) and the Article 7 Authority (A7a).

(a) The EFP is broadly speaking a passport for firearms. EC residents travelling to shoot in another EC 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. 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 shooter in the EC wanting to purchase firearms of certain types outside his or her State of residence to have the prior authority of their own State. The issue of these authorities is at the discretion of the Chief Police Officer. If the shooter does not hold an appropriate firearm certificate, the firearm cannot be brought back to the UK, even if an A7a has been granted.

12. Following the shooting incident in Dunblane, Scotland, in March 1996, changes to the existing firearms legislation were introduced to increase public safety. The resulting Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 banned all handguns over .22 calibre with effect from 1 October 1997. A hand-in exercise took place between 1 July and 30 September 1997 which resulted in 110,382 of these larger calibre handguns being surrendered in England and Wales, while 24,620 smaller calibre handguns were handed in voluntarily in anticipation of further legislation. The Firearms (Amendment)(No.2) Act 1997 came into effect from 1 March 1998 banning all handguns of .22 calibre and under, having been preceded by a further hand-in period between 1 February and 28 February which resulted in a further 18,170 small calibre handguns being surrendered. Certain types of handgun remain exempt including muzzle-loading guns, firearms used for the humane killing of animals, flare pistols, vintage pistols held as war trophies or collectors items, etc.

13. Symbols used in the tables: -nil .. not available

#### *Enquiries*

14. This bulletin has been prepared by the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit of the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate of the Home Office. It is based on the data provided by the firearms officers in the 43 police forces in England and Wales. to the Data Collection Unit here. If you have any enquiries about figures in this bulletin or wish to request further analysis of the data (for which there may be a charge) please contact Alan Gray. The address is as follows:

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15. Copies of this bulletin are available from:

Research, Development and Statistics Directorate  
Communications & Development Group  
Room 275, Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON  
SW1H 9AT  
Telephone 020 7273 2084

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16. Press enquiries should be made to:

Home Office Press Office  
Communication Directorate  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London, SW1H 9AT

Telephone 0171-273 4610

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Therefore -

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