



Seizure of Legally Held Firearms and Certificates

Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Due to the number of Firearm and Shotgun holders, Firearms Dealers and clubs within the Surrey and Sussex Police area; it is essential that each Force has a process in place whereby the suitability of existing and future firearms licence holders is robustly assessed and, where any risk is identified, firearms and certificates can be withdrawn or seized by Police.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Surrey and Sussex Police will always strictly assess the suitability of individuals to have access to and/or possession of legally held firearms and certificates. Where appropriate, necessary and proportionate, in line with section 3 of this policy (Chief Officers overarching Statement), firearms and certificates will be seized by officers with the full support of their force in order to balance the risk of harm to the public or themselves with the lawful right to possess weapons.

2.2 Surrey and Sussex Police will always support its staff and officers when making NDM based decisions in terms of those in possession of legally held firearms having an adverse effect on public safety.

3. Chief Officers' Overarching Statement - Ratified by ACC Barry, Head of Operations Command

3.1 In the management of threat, risk and harm from firearms, there is a need for dynamic and clear decision making and there is an absolute need for officers do the right thing when keeping our communities safe. There will be occasions involving lawfully possessed firearms and shotguns when the threat of harm is so significant that immediate action is required, where justified and proportionate, to manage the threat and police officers should not hesitate to remove guns, ammunition and certificates where they have justified concerns around public safety when any delay in taking action may result in serious injury or loss of life.

3.2 I want all officers to understand that you will have my full support in taking appropriate action circumstances dictate.

Team: Tactical Firearms Management