Management Information
Firearm Certificates
Report: Quarter 4
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Introduction

This is the first report produced by Police Scotland in relation to the certification of firearms and shotguns in Scotland. This information will be produced as part of the management information in line with other statistical reports published quarterly.

This first report reflects the statistics previously produced by the Scottish Government and it is intended that a number of other data fields will be added in future as they become available.

Firearms legislation is a reserved matter and further information and guidance in respect of firearms licensing can be found within the [Home Office Guide on Firearms Licensing Law](#), last updated during April 2016.
### Table 1
**Number of people holding a certificate by type: Police Scotland**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Category</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearms Only</td>
<td>3,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotguns Only</td>
<td>24,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Terminus</td>
<td>20,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>1,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50,994</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 02/04/2017 15:00 hrs.

This above table reflects the number of people who are issued with certificates to possess firearms or shotguns in Scotland.

Firearm Certificate only means that a person is only allowed to possess firearms.

Shotgun Certificate only means that a person is only allowed to possess shotguns.

Co terminus means that a person has both a firearm and a shotgun certificate, which both expire on the same date. There is less administration involved in the processing of these certificates and the cost to the applicant is reduced.

Both, but not coterminous means that a person has both a firearm and a shotgun certificate but they expire on different dates.
Table 2
Number of guns per type: Police Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Category</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>55,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotguns</td>
<td>108,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 02/04/2017 15:00 hrs.

1. - 0068 (Sound Moderator), 0319 (Sound Moderator (RR), Sound Moderator (CR), 0518 (s/Moderator) have been excluded from the above data.

The above table reflects the numbers of guns held in Scotland by definition. Sound moderators are not included. These component parts are designed to suppress the noise and flash when a firearm is discharged. They are not usually marked with either a manufacturer or serial number and are recorded as being present or otherwise when enquiry is made with an applicant.

Within the definition of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended), a “firearm” means a lethal barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged. It includes any prohibited weapon, any component part of such a weapon and any accessory to such a weapon designed or adapted to diminish the noise or flash caused by the firing of the weapon.

It is, with certain statutory exceptions, an offence to possess, purchase, or acquire any firearm or ammunition to which Section 1 of the Firearms Act 1968 applies without holding a firearm certificate.

Section 1 of the 1968 Act applies to all firearms except a shotgun or an air gun.

A “shotgun” is defined as a smooth-bore gun (not being an air gun) which:

(i) has a barrel not less than 24 inches in length and does not have any barrel with a bore exceeding two inches in diameter;

(ii) either has no magazine or has a non-detachable magazine incapable of holding more than two cartridges; and

(iii) is not a revolver gun. Other smooth-bore guns may require a firearm certificate

(iv) It is, with certain statutory exceptions, an offence for a person to possess, purchase, or acquire any shotgun without holding a shotgun certificate.
### Table 3
Number of registered firearms dealers: Police Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Number of dealers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 02/04/2017 15:00 hrs.

The above table reflects Section 3 of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended) which states;

A person commits an offence if, by way of trade or business, he—

(a) manufactures, sells, transfers, repairs, tests or proves any firearm or ammunition to which section 1 of this Act applies, or a shot gun;

(b) exposes for sale or transfer, or has in his possession for sale, transfer, repair, test or proof any such firearm or ammunition, or a shot gun, or

(c) sells or transfers an air weapon, exposes such a weapon for sale or transfer or has such a weapon in his possession for sale or transfer, without being registered under this Act as a firearms dealer.
Table 4
Number of club certificates: Police Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club certificates</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Applications for club certificates are approved by Scottish Ministers in Scotland.
Further information

If you require further information about any of the data published in this document please contact the Analysis and Performance Unit at APU AnalysisandPerformance@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Should you require any other data or information recorded by Police Scotland please visit our Access to Information page (http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/). Alternatively, you may write to:

FOI Central Processing Unit
Information Management Unit
Police Scotland
2 French Street
Glasgow
G40 4EH
foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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