



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA

Firearms Licensing

Annual Statistical Publication

National Firearms and Explosives Licensing

2019/2020

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Introduction

This report presents statistics on firearm, shotgun and air weapon certificates issued by Police Scotland under the Firearms Acts 1968 (as amended) and Air Weapon and Licensing Scotland Act 2015.

A firearm, shotgun or air weapon certificate is a type of licence issued by Police Scotland that allows the holder to possess firearms, shotguns or air weapons and associated ammunition. Certificates are valid for 5 years.

This publication details certificates on issue at 31st March 2020 and provides information on certificates granted, renewed and refused for all new grant and renewal applications processed 01st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

The publication also provides the number of certificates revoked, registered firearm dealers, visitors' permits, European Firearm Passes (EFP) during the period 01st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. Information contained in this publication relates to all certificates throughout Scotland and is represented by processing centre.

The data cannot at this time be produced by council or geographical area.

The statistical information in this report was extracted from SHOGUN which is Police Scotland's national system for the management of firearms licensing. SHOGUN is a register of all people who have applied for, or have been granted, a certificate to possess or acquire a firearm, shotgun or air weapon. The system is a live operational database which is centrally updated therefore only represents a snapshot of time.

Firearm, shotgun and air weapon certificates on issue

The information below reflects the number of certificates which were on issue in Scotland on 31 March 2020.

Firearm certificates

- There were **25983** firearm certificates on issue as at 31 March 2020.

Shotgun certificates

- There were **46703** shotgun certificates on issue as at 31 March 2020.

Air Weapon certificates

- There were **25820** air weapon certificates on issue as at 31 March 2020.

1. Firearms

1.1 Weapons covered by firearm certificates.

- There were **104306** firearms covered by firearm certificates as at 31 March 2020. Firearms can be categorised as rifles, handguns, muzzle-loading handguns, Section 1 shotguns, sound moderators and other firearm types.

1.2 New applications, renewals and revocations.

- There were **843** new applications for firearm certificates in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, of which **829** were granted and **14** refused.
- There were **2756** renewal applications for firearms certificates in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 of which **2752** were granted and **4** refused.
- A total of **49** firearms certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Firearm certificates can be revoked if, for example, the Chief Constable of Police Scotland is satisfied that the holder can no longer be entrusted with firearms in accordance with the [Firearms Act 1968](#).

Table 1

Firearm certificates granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	81	3	121	0	205
Falkirk	35	0	192	1	228
Dundee	106	0	518	0	624
Edinburgh	23	0	65	0	88
Glasgow	164	3	425	19	611
Inverness	226	5	822	28	1081
Glenrothes	131	2	380	1	514
Dumfries	63	1	229	0	293
Total	829	14	2752	49	3644

2. Shotguns

2.1 Weapons covered by shotgun certificates.

- There were **133037** shotguns covered by shotgun certificates as at 31 March 2020.

2.2 New applications, renewals and revocations.

- There were **1338** new applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 of which **1309** were granted and **29** refused.
- There were **4952** renewal applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 of which **4946** were granted and **6** refused.
- A total of **74** shotgun certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Shotgun certificates can be revoked if, for example the Chief Constable of Police Scotland is satisfied that the holder can no longer be entrusted with shotguns, in accordance with the [Firearms Act 1968](#).

Table 2

Shotgun certificates granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	117	3	177	0	297
Falkirk	58	0	469	1	528
Dundee	168	3	867	0	1038
Edinburgh	46	0	91	0	137
Glasgow	295	8	877	32	1212
Inverness	295	7	1181	39	1522
Glenrothes	248	5	819	2	1074
Dumfries	82	3	465	0	550
Total	1309	29	4946	74	6358

3. Air Weapons

3.1 Weapons covered by air weapon certificates.

The Air Weapon and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 does not require the registration of individual weapons and therefore there is no data relating to the number of weapons covered by air weapon certificates.

3.2 New applications, renewals and revocations.

- There were **3098** new applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, of which **3063** were granted and **35** refused.
- There were **278** renewal applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 of which **278** were granted and **0** refused.
- A total of **48** air weapon certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Table 3

Air weapon certificates granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	139	1	12	0	152
Falkirk	208	2	19	1	230
Dundee	472	3	32	0	507
Edinburgh	70	1	7	0	78
Glasgow	651	14	86	34	785
Inverness	678	5	54	11	748
Glenrothes	559	3	38	2	602
Dumfries	286	6	30	0	322
Total	3063	35	278	48	3424

4. Certificates

4.1 Certificates issued by processing centre.

The table below represents a breakdown of all firearm, shotgun and air weapon certificates issued by processing centre. It shows the combined totals of all certificates held throughout Scotland.

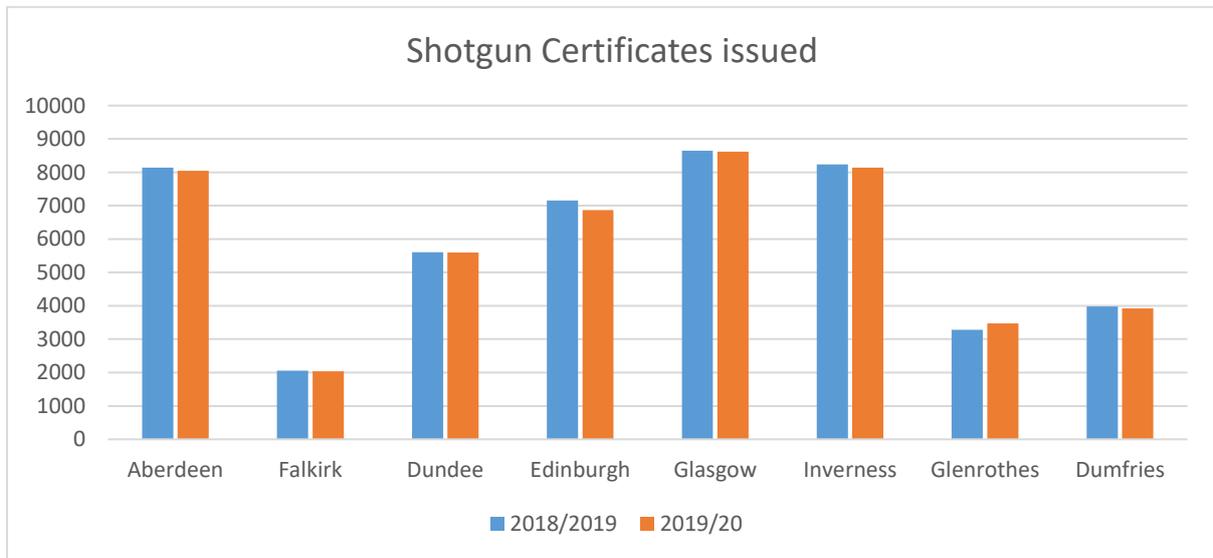
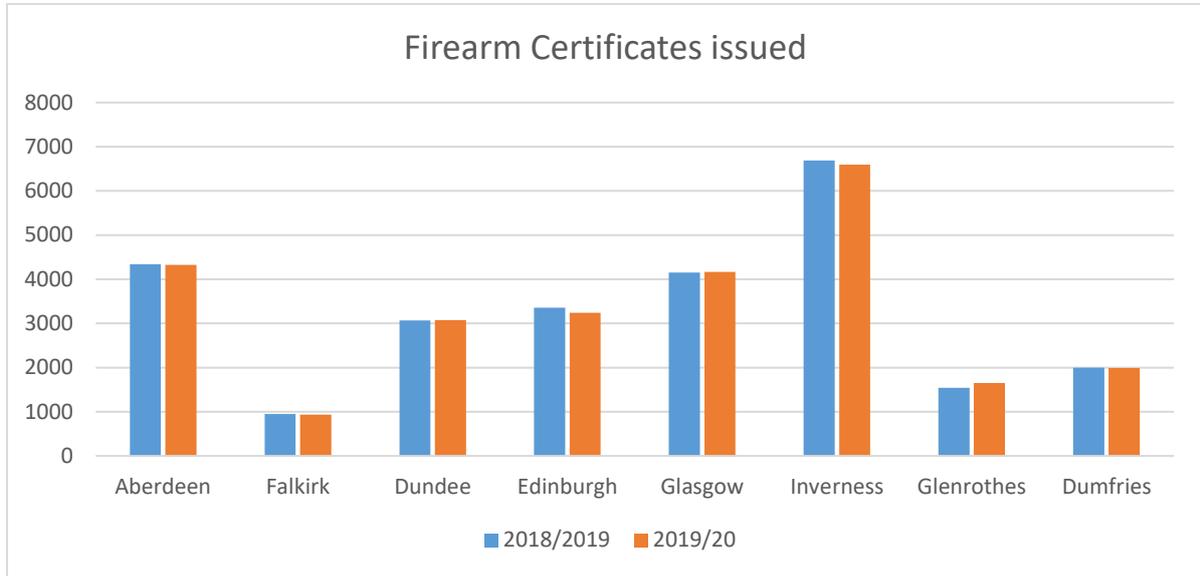
Table 4

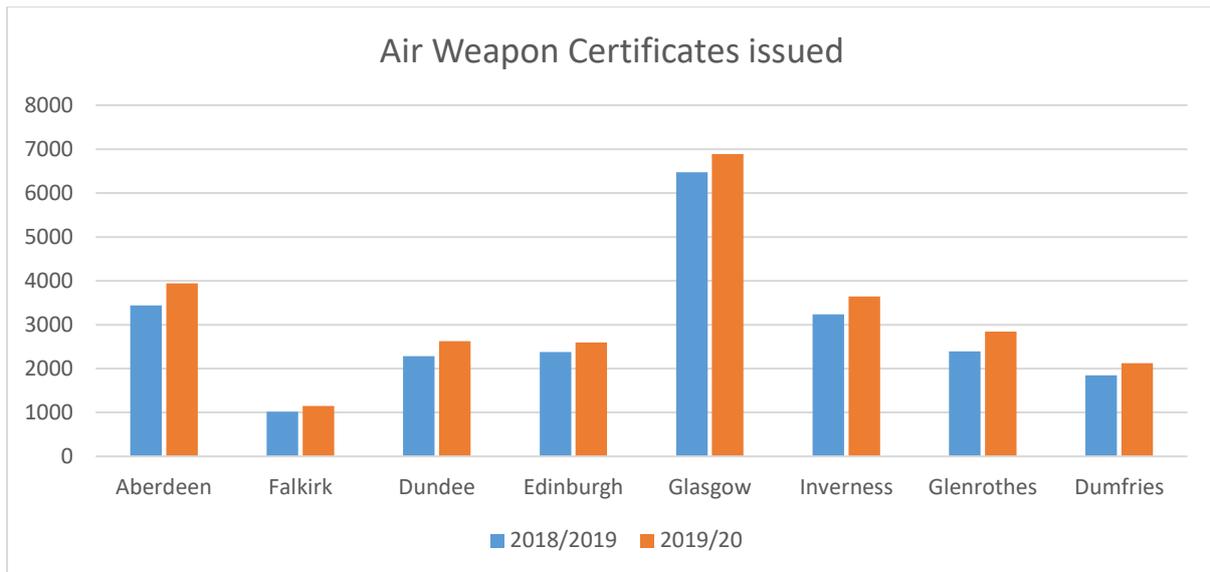
Certificates issued by processing centre as at 31 March 2020.

Processing Centre	Firearm	Shotgun	Air Weapon	Total
Aberdeen	4328	8050	3940	16318
Falkirk	937	2037	1151	4125
Dundee	3072	5593	2629	11294
Edinburgh	3243	6872	2600	12715
Glasgow	4164	8618	6888	19670
Inverness	6593	8140	3643	18376
Glenrothes	1654	3472	2846	7972
Dumfries	1992	3921	2123	8036
Total	25983	46703	25820	98506

Table 5

Certificates issued by processing centre yearly statistical comparison.





5. Registered Firearm Dealers

There were **339** registered firearm dealers in Scotland as at 31 March 2020 a decrease of **11** from the previous year.

- There were **19** new applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, of which **18** were granted and **1** refused.
- There were **138** renewal applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 all of which were granted.

6. Visitors' Permits

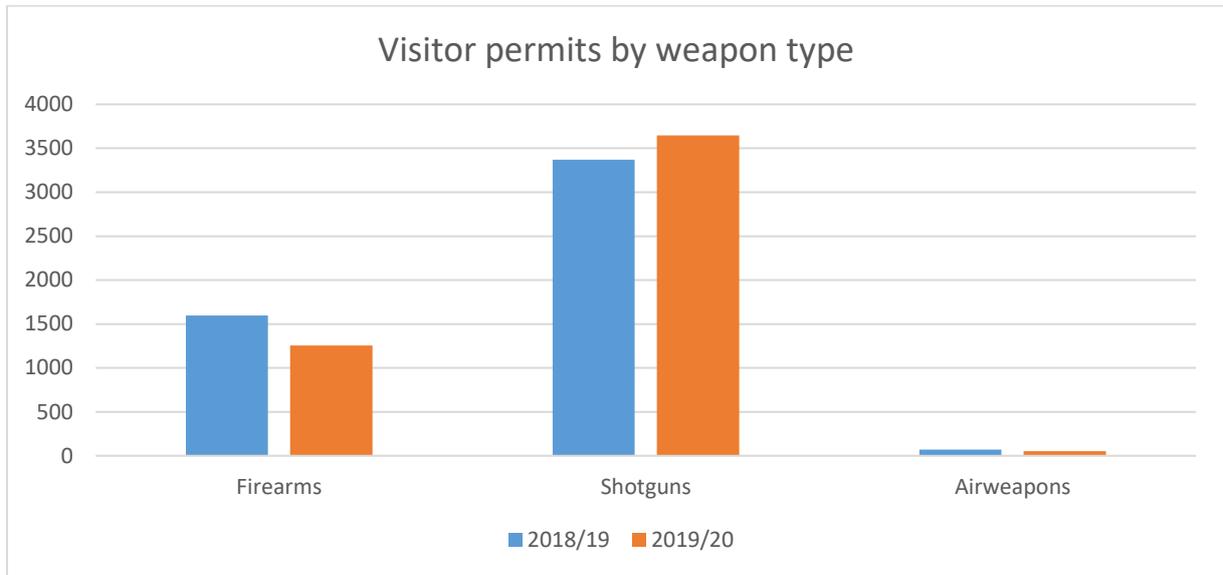
Visitors' permits allows visitors to Great Britain to possess a firearm, shotgun, air weapon or ammunition without holding a certificate. Visitors' permits are usually granted enabling the holder to attend organised shoots such as deer stalking or competitive target shooting events. European Union (EU) residents visiting Great Britain must also be in possession of a valid European Firearms Pass (EFP). The following information relates to visitors' permits issued in Scotland.

There were **1254** visitors' permits granted for firearms as at 31 March 2020.

There were **3646** visitors' permits granted for shotguns as at 31 March 2020.

There were **51** visitors' permits granted for air weapons as at 31 March 2020.

Visitors permit yearly statistical comparison.



7. European Firearms Passes

European Firearms Pass (EFP) is a firearms passport for EU residents intending to take their firearm, shotgun or air weapon to another EU member state.

As at 31 March 2020 **1086** EFPs were on issue in Scotland.