



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

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**POILEAS ALBA**

Firearms Licensing

Annual Statistical Publication

National Firearms and Explosives Licensing

2020/2021

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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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and provides information on certificates granted, renewed and refused for all new grant and renewal applications processed 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The publication also provides the number of certificates revoked, registered firearm dealers, visitors' permits, during the period 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. 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 2021.

### Firearm certificates

- There were **25646** firearm certificates on issue as at 31 March 2021.

### Shotgun certificates

- There were **45420** shotgun certificates on issue as at 31 March 2021.

### Air Weapon certificates

- There were **30374** air weapon certificates on issue as at 31 March 2021.

## 1. Firearms

### 1.1 Weapons covered by firearm certificates.

- There were **105314** firearms covered by firearm certificates as at 31 March 2021. 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 **728** new applications for firearm certificates in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, of which **715** were granted and **13** refused.
- There were **5662** renewal applications for firearms certificates in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 of which **5652** were granted and **10** refused.
- A total of **62** firearms certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

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 2020 to 31 March 2021 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Refused	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	17	0	279	1	0	<b>297</b>
Falkirk	39	1	535	0	1	<b>576</b>
Dundee	107	3	1076	0	1	<b>1187</b>
Edinburgh	7	0	87	0	10	<b>104</b>
Glasgow	148	0	888	1	25	<b>1062</b>
Inverness	258	7	1650	8	25	<b>1948</b>
Glenrothes	91	0	726	0	0	<b>817</b>
Dumfries	61	2	421	0	0	<b>484</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5662</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>6475</b>

## 2. Shotguns

### 2.1 Weapons covered by shotgun certificates.

- There were **131676** shotguns covered by shotgun certificates as at 31 March 2021.

### 2.2 New applications, renewals and revocations.

- There were **977** new applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 of which **952** were granted and **25** refused.
- There were **10134** renewal applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 of which **10120** were granted and **14** refused.
- A total of **86** shotgun certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

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 2020 to 31 March 2021 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Refused	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	20	0	412	1	1	<b>434</b>
Falkirk	65	2	1345	0	1	<b>1413</b>
Dundee	141	6	1613	0	1	<b>1761</b>
Edinburgh	10	0	87	0	13	<b>110</b>
Glasgow	193	2	1968	3	36	<b>2202</b>
Inverness	376	10	2509	10	32	<b>2937</b>
Glenrothes	88	2	1356	0	2	<b>1448</b>
Dumfries	84	3	844	0	0	<b>931</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10134</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>11236</b>

### 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 **4881** new applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, of which **4854** were granted and **27** refused.
- There were **468** renewal applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 of which **467** were granted and **1** refused.
- A total of **54** air weapon certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

**Table 3**

Air weapon certificates granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Refused	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	368	0	13	0	0	<b>381</b>
Falkirk	589	2	54	0	0	<b>645</b>
Dundee	701	5	67	0	1	<b>774</b>
Edinburgh	89	0	13	0	11	<b>113</b>
Glasgow	1034	6	105	0	30	<b>1175</b>
Inverness	1035	8	97	1	10	<b>1151</b>
Glenrothes	677	4	76	0	2	<b>759</b>
Dumfries	388	2	43	0	0	<b>433</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4881</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5431</b>

## 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.

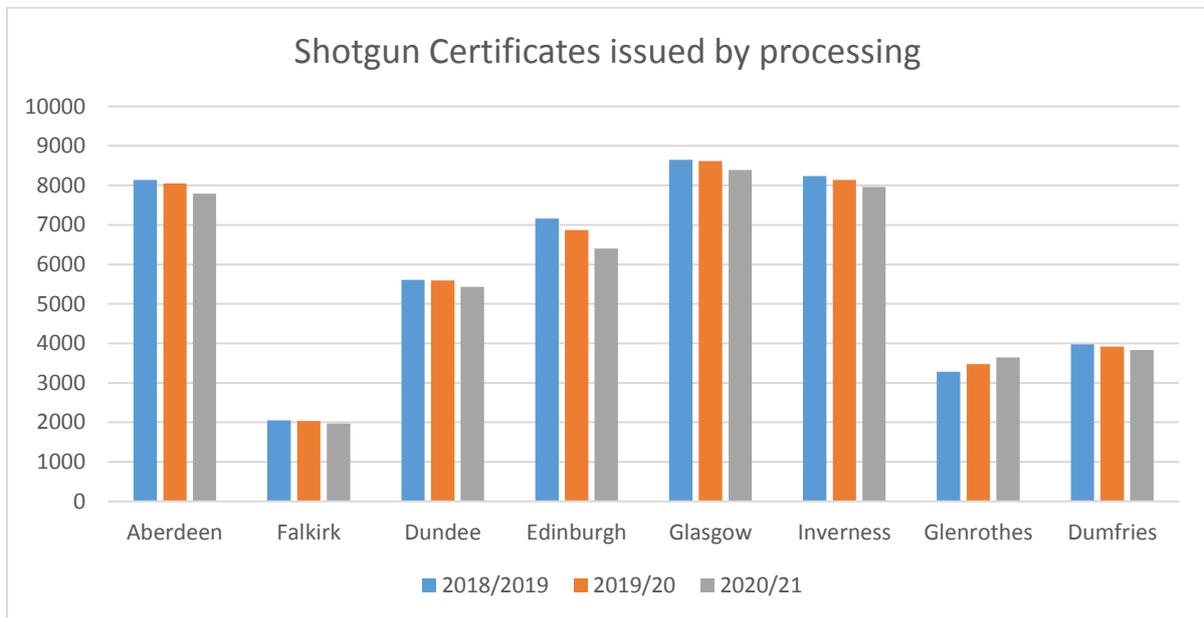
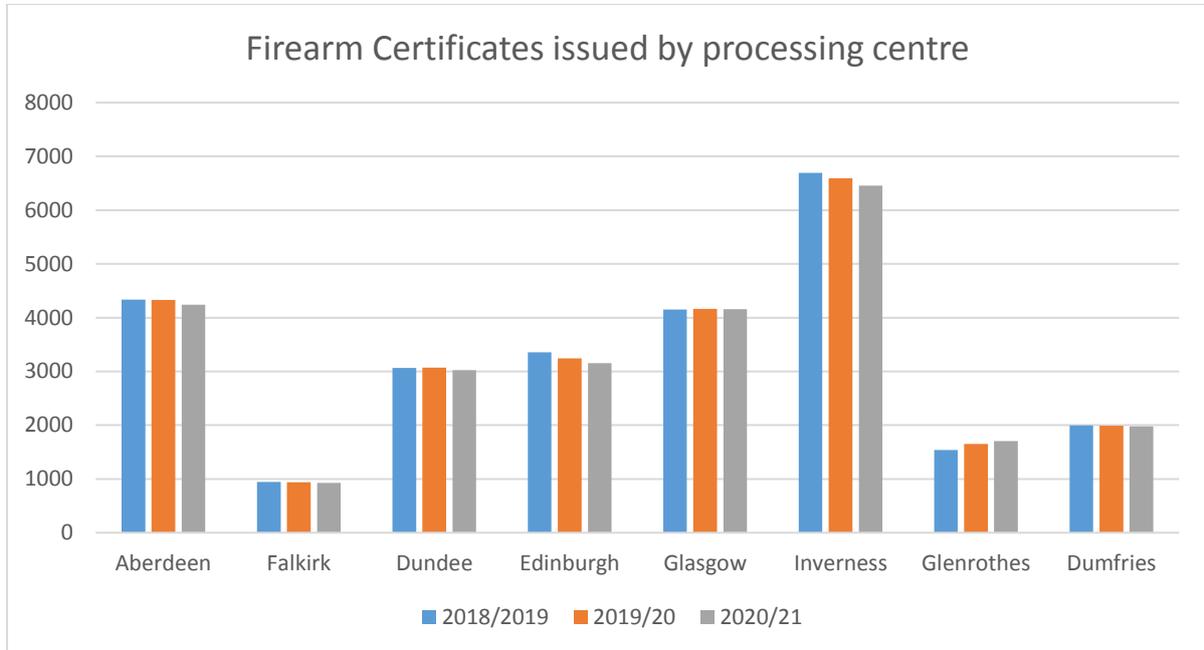
Table 4

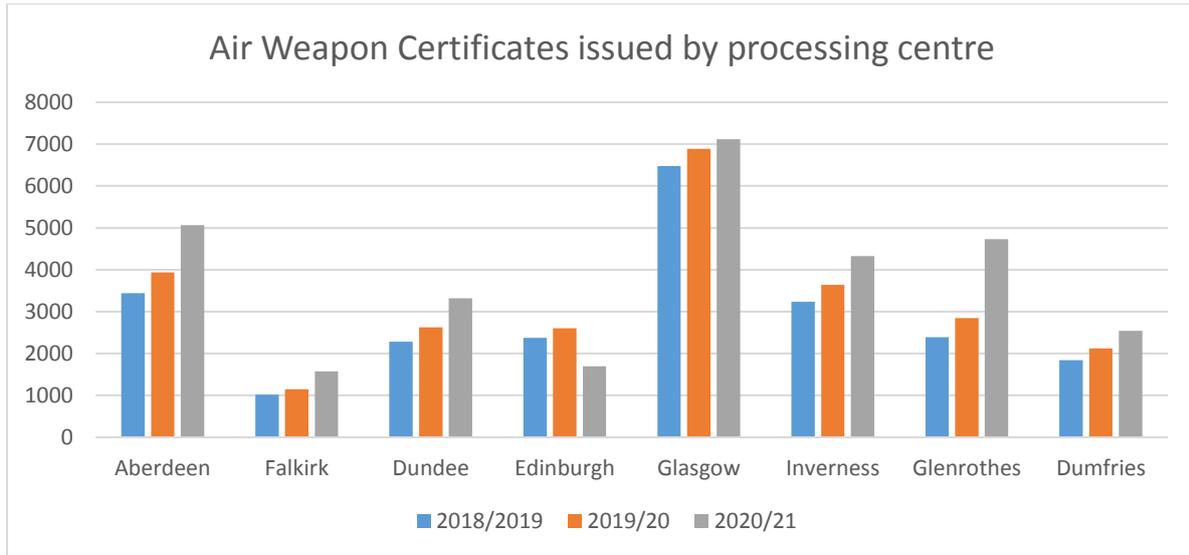
Certificates issued by processing centre as at 31 March 2021.

Processing Centre	Firearm	Shotgun	Air Weapon	Total
Aberdeen	4242	7791	5068	17101
Falkirk	928	1970	1573	4471
Dundee	3026	5430	3321	11777
Edinburgh	3154	6404	1693	11251
Glasgow	4156	8388	7116	19660
Inverness	6459	7962	4330	18751
Glenrothes	1705	3644	4728	10077
Dumfries	1976	3831	2545	8352
Total	25646	45420	30374	101440

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 2021 no change from the previous year.

- There were **11** new applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, of which **10** were granted and **1** refused.
- There were **85** renewal applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 of which **1** was refused.

## 6. Visitors' Permits

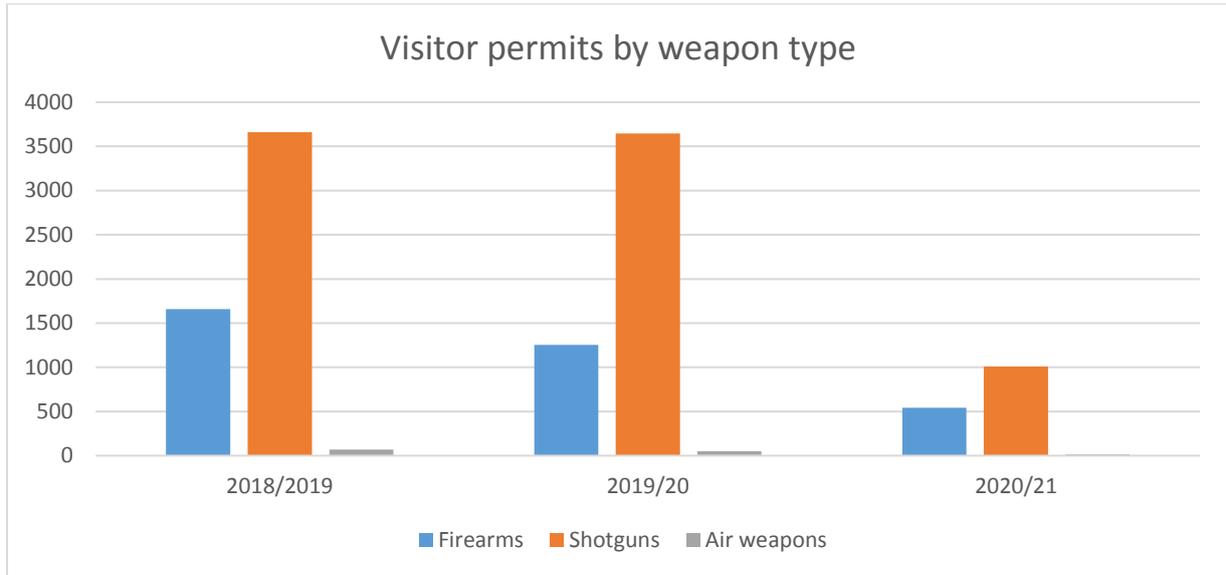
Visitors' permits allows visitors to Great Britain to possess a firearm, shotgun, air weapon or ammunition without holding a certificate. Visitors' permits are usually granted enabling the holder to attend organised shoots such as deer stalking or competitive target shooting events. European Union (EU) 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 **542** visitors' permits granted for firearms as at 31 March 2021.

There were **1007** visitors' permits granted for shotguns as at 31 March 2021.

There were **16** visitors' permits granted for air weapons as at 31 March 2021.

Visitors permit yearly statistical comparison.



## 7. European Firearms Passes

Following Brexit the UK no longer issues European Firearms Passes (EFP).