



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

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**POILEAS ALBA**

Firearms Licensing

Annual Statistical Publication

National Firearms and Explosives Licensing

2018/2019

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## Firearm, shotgun and air weapon certificates in Scotland, financial year ending 31 March 2019

### Introduction

This experimental release 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 covers certificates on issue at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and provides information on certificates granted and refused for new and renewal applications, certificates revoked, registered firearm dealers, visitors' permits, European Firearm Passes (EFP) and Article 7 Authorities issued. 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 release 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 continually updated as it is a live operational database so these statistics are a snapshot of a point in time.

## Firearm, shotgun and air weapon certificates on issue

### Firearm certificates

- There were 26082 firearm certificates on issue as at 31 March 2019.

### Shotgun certificates

- There were 47102 shotgun certificates on issue as at 31 March 2019.

### Air Weapon certificates

- There were 23063 air weapon certificates on issue as at 31 March 2019.

The above information reflects the number of certificates which were on issue in Scotland on 31 March 2019.

## 1. Firearms

### 1.1 Weapons covered by firearm certificates.

- There were **102474** firearms covered by firearm certificates as at 31 March 2019. 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 **999** new applications for firearm certificates in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, of which **964** were granted and **35** refused.
- There were **2226** renewal applications for firearms certificates in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 of which **2219** were granted and **7** refused.
- A total of **78** firearms certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

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 2018 to 31 March 2019 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	158	9	87	0	<b>254</b>
Falkirk	33	0	97	0	<b>130</b>
Dundee	89	4	264	10	<b>367</b>
Edinburgh	31	2	53	6	<b>92</b>
Glasgow	209	9	388	18	<b>624</b>
Inverness	231	7	826	33	<b>1097</b>
Glenrothes	134	6	338	5	<b>483</b>
Dumfries	79	5	166	6	<b>256</b>
Total	<b>964</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2219</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3303</b>

## 2. Shotguns

### 2.1 Weapons covered by shotgun certificates.

- There were **131866** shotguns covered by shotgun certificates as at 31 March 2019.

### 2.2 New applications, renewals and revocations.

- There were **1707** new applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 of which **1630** were granted and **77** refused.
- There were **3878** renewal applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 of which **3861** were granted and **17** refused.
- A total of **129** shotgun certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

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 2018 to 31 March 2019 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	266	18	157	0	<b>441</b>
Falkirk	65	2	251	2	<b>320</b>
Dundee	126	8	378	10	<b>522</b>
Edinburgh	72	2	122	5	<b>201</b>
Glasgow	319	23	776	31	<b>1149</b>
Inverness	447	23	1153	61	<b>1684</b>
Glenrothes	243	10	690	9	<b>952</b>
Dumfries	92	8	334	11	<b>445</b>
Total	<b>1630</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3861</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>5714</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 **3185** new applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, of which **3105** were granted and **80** refused.
- There were **4251** renewal applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 of which **4237** were granted and **14** refused.
- A total of **91** air weapon certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Table 3

Air weapon certificates granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 presented by processing centre.

Processing Centre	Granted	Refused	Renewed	Revoked	Total
Aberdeen	123	1	6	0	<b>130</b>
Falkirk	123	0	10	1	<b>134</b>
Dundee	270	2	6	1	<b>279</b>
Edinburgh	54	0	7	1	<b>62</b>
Glasgow	1440	79	4139	72	<b>5730</b>
Inverness	516	4	36	11	<b>567</b>
Glenrothes	373	6	19	4	<b>402</b>
Dumfries	206	2	14	1	<b>223</b>
Total	<b>3105</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4237</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>7527</b>

High numbers reflected for Glasgow processing are due to the location processing all air weapon enquiries until 01/12/2018 when this process was devolved to all regional processing centres.

## 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 2019.

Processing Centre	Firearm	Shotgun	Air Weapon	Total
Aberdeen	4337	8138	3441	15916
Falkirk	946	2053	1015	4014
Dundee	3065	5605	2285	10955
Edinburgh	3357	7158	2376	12891
Glasgow	4151	8651	6475	19277
Inverness	6691	8237	3237	18165
Glenrothes	1539	3283	2390	7212
Dumfries	1996	3977	1844	7817
Total	26082	47102	23063	96247

## 5. Registered Firearm Dealers

There were 350 registered firearm dealers in Scotland as at 31 March 2019.

- There were 23 new applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, of which 22 were granted and 1 refused.
- There were 74 renewal applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 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 **1598** visitors' permits granted for firearms as at 31 March 2019.

There were **3371** visitors' permits granted for shotguns as at 31 March 2019.

There were **69** visitors' permits granted for air weapons as at 31 March 2019.

## 7. European Firearms Passes and Article 7 Authorities

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 2019 **987** EFPs were on issue in Scotland.

Article 7 of the Weapons Directive (Directive No-91/477/EC) requires any EU resident wishing to purchase certain types of firearms, or ammunition for such firearms outside their state of residence to have the prior authority of their own state.