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**Firearms Licensing**

**Annual Statistical Publication**

**National Firearms and Explosives Licensing**

**2021/2022**

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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 2022 and provides information on certificates granted, renewed and refused for all new grant and renewal applications processed between 01st April 2021 and 31st March 2022.

The publication also provides the number of certificates revoked, registered firearm dealers, visitors’ permits, during the period 01st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. 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 2022.

Firearm certificates

* There were 25345 firearm certificates on issue as at 31 March 2022.

Shotgun certificates

* There were 44503 shotgun certificates on issue as at 31 March 2022.

Air Weapon certificates

* There were 33013 air weapon certificates on issue as at 31 March 2022.

# 1. Firearms

## 1.1 Weapons covered by firearm certificates.

* There were 106681 firearms covered by firearm certificates as at 31 March 2022. 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 897 new applications for firearm certificates in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, of which 874 were granted and 23 refused.
* There were 5875 renewal applications for firearms certificates in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 of which 5861 were granted and 14 refused.
* A total of 61 firearms certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/27/contents).

### Table 1: Firearm certificates

Granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 presented by processing centre.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Processing Centre | Granted | Refused | Renewed | Refused |  Revoked |  Total |
| Aberdeen | 21 | 0 | 369 | 0 | 3 | 393 |
| Falkirk | 17 | 0 | 432 | 1 | 0 | 450 |
| Dundee | 111 | 4 | 698 | 1 | 2 | 816 |
| Edinburgh | 23 | 0 | 96 | 2 | 9 | 130 |
| Glasgow | 208 | 8 | 1465 | 4 | 21 | 1706 |
| Inverness | 307 | 7 | 1698 | 5 | 25 | 2042 |
| Glenrothes | 122 | 2 | 663 | 1 | 0 | 788 |
| Dumfries | 65 | 2 | 440 | 0 | 1 | 508 |
| Total | 874 | 23 | 5861 | 14 | 61 | 6833 |

# 2. Shotguns

## **2.1 Weapons covered by shotgun certificates**.

* There were 131094 shotguns covered by shotgun certificates as at 31 March 2022.

## 2.2 New applications, renewals and revocations.

* There were 1389 new applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 of which 1349 were granted and 40 refused.
* There were 10140 renewal applications for shotgun certificates in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 of which 10125 were granted and 15 refused.
* A total of 89 shotgun certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/27/contents).

### Table 2: Shotgun certificates

Granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 presented by processing centre.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Processing Centre | Granted | Refused | Renewed | Refused | Revoked |  Total |
| Aberdeen | 18 | 1 | 616 | 0 | 5 | 640 |
| Falkirk | 22 | 0 | 1096 | 0 | 0 | 1118 |
| Dundee | 134 | 6 | 1068 | 0 | 3 | 1211 |
| Edinburgh | 48 | 0 | 100 | 4 | 12 | 164 |
| Glasgow | 360 | 11 | 2711 | 8 | 36 | 3126 |
| Inverness | 412 | 13 | 2500 | 2 | 31 | 2958 |
| Glenrothes | 235 | 6 | 1156 | 1 | 1 | 1399 |
| Dumfries | 120 | 3 | 878 | 0 | 1 | 1002 |
| Total | 1349 | 40 | 10125 | 15 | 89 | 11618 |

# 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 3961 new applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, of which 3914 were granted and 47 refused.
* There were 3712 renewal applications for air weapon certificates in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 of which 3708 were granted and 4 refused.
* A total of 61 air weapon certificates were revoked in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

## Table 3: Air weapon certificates

Granted, refused, renewed and revoked in the year 1 April to 31 March 2022 presented by processing centre.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Processing Centre | Granted | Refused | Renewed | Refused | Revoked |  Total |
| Aberdeen | 451 | 0 | 106 | 0 | 1 | 558 |
| Falkirk | 315 | 0 | 253 | 0 | 0 | 568 |
| Dundee | 437 | 2 | 177 | 1 | 2 | 619 |
| Edinburgh | 85 | 5 | 29 | 0 | 8 | 127 |
| Glasgow | 861 | 25 | 2165 | 2 | 27 | 3080 |
| Inverness | 908 | 4 | 393 | 1 | 21 | 1327 |
| Glenrothes | 624 | 6 | 209 | 0 | 2 | 841 |
| Dumfries | 233 | 5 | 376 | 0 | 0 | 614 |
| Total | 3914 | 47 | 3708 | 4 | 61 | 7734 |

# 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 2022.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Processing Centre | Firearm | Shotgun | Air Weapon | Total |
| Aberdeen | 4138 | 7545 | 5714 | 17397 |
| Falkirk | 924 | 1920 | 1620 | 4464 |
| Dundee | 2998 | 5306 | 3652 | 11956 |
| Edinburgh | 2420 | 5029 | 2268 | 9717 |
| Glasgow | 4104 | 8174 | 7569 | 19847 |
| Inverness | 6397 | 7870 | 4693 | 18960 |
| Glenrothes | 2409 | 4869 | 4865 | 12143 |
| Dumfries | 1955 | 3790 | 2632 | 8377 |
| Total | 25345 | 44503 | 33013 | 102861 |

### Table 5: Certificates issued by processing centre yearly statistical comparison.

# 5. Registered Firearm Dealers

There were 338 registered firearm dealers in Scotland as at 31 March 2022.

* There were 13 new applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, of which 13 were granted and 0 refused.
* There were 75 renewal applications for registration in the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 of which 0 were 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 993 visitors’ permits granted for firearms as at 31 March 2022.

There were 2006 visitors’ permits granted for shotguns as at 31 March 2022.

There were 48 visitors’ permits granted for air weapons as at 31 March 2022.

# Table 6: Visitors permit yearly statistical comparison