



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

# Statistical Bulletin

## Criminal Justice Series

CrJ/2007/6

Published May 2007

Price £2.00

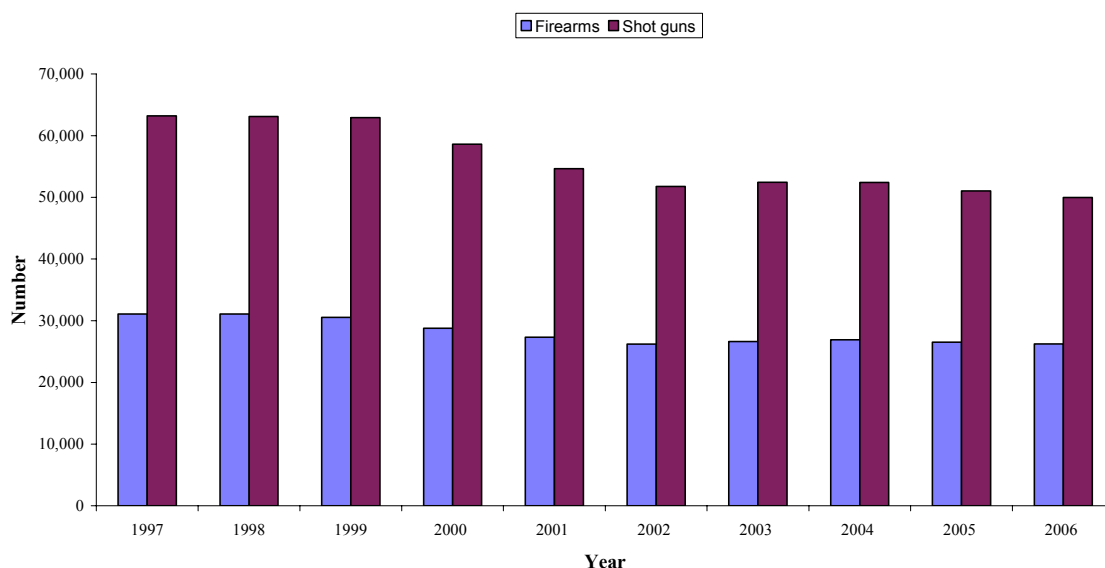
### FIREARM CERTIFICATES STATISTICS, SCOTLAND, 2006

#### 1. Introduction

This bulletin presents information for the years 1997 to 2006 on the issue of firearm and shot gun certificates under the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended). For 2005 and 2006, Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals (see Note 2 in the Annex). Statistics on the number of crimes and offences involving the *alleged* use of a firearm in 2005-06 were published in the Scottish Executive statistical bulletin, "*Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland, 2005-06*" in November 2006. The corresponding figures for 2006-07 will be published in October 2007.

Changes in regulations regarding the length of time a firearm or shot gun certificate was valid for took effect from 1 January 1995, increasing the period of certification from three to five years. As this includes both applications for new certificates and renewals of existing certificates this effectively meant that no certificates required renewal in either 1998 or 1999. This had the knock-on effect of reducing numbers of renewals in 2003 and 2004, with numbers rising again in 2005 and 2006. Numbers of cancellations are similarly affected. Further information is given in the Notes in the Annex.

Chart 1 Firearm and shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December, Scotland, 1997-2006



<b>CONTENTS</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Main Points</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Commentary :</b>	
	<i>Firearm Certificates</i> .....	<b>4</b>
	<i>Shot Gun Certificates</i> .....	<b>5</b>
	<i>Firearm Dealers</i> .....	<b>6</b>
	<i>Visitor's Permits</i> .....	<b>6</b>
	<i>European Firearm Passes</i> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Appendix of tables</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Annex : Notes on statistics used in this bulletin</b> .....	<b>16</b>

## 2. Main Points

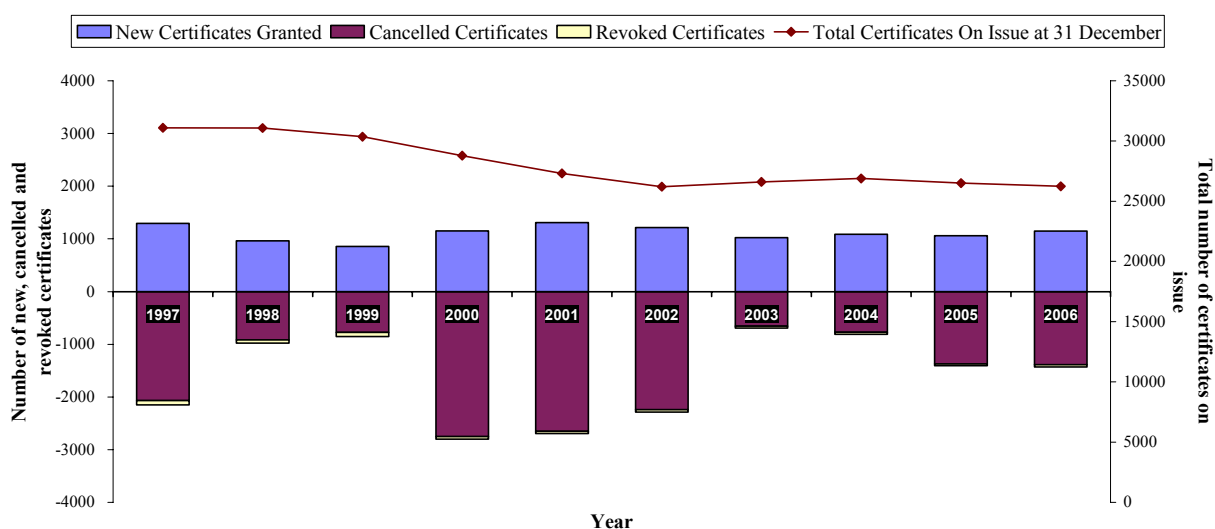
- There were 26,234 firearm certificates on issue at the end of 2006, a decrease of 1 per cent on the previous year, and 16 per cent lower than the number in 1997.
- In 2006, there were 1,156 applications for new firearms certificates, an increase of 7 per cent compared with 2005. There were 1,389 cancellations of firearm certificates and 41 firearm certificates were revoked (see Annex Notes 2 and 12).
- In 2006, 6,605 firearm certificates were renewed, an increase of 2 per cent from 2005 (see Annex Notes 2 and 12). Seventeen applications for renewal were refused.
- The 26,234 firearm certificates on issue at the end of 2006 covered the possession of 66,164 firearms, a 3 per cent increase compared to 2005. This represents an average number of firearms possessed for each certificate of 2.5.
- There were 49,974 shot gun certificates on issue at the end of 2006, a decrease of 2 per cent on the previous year.
- The number of applications for a new shot gun certificate was 1,862 in 2006, almost the same as in 2005. There were 1,844 successful applications in 2006, compared to 2,879 cancellations (see Annex Notes 2 and 12).
- There were 13,400 renewed shot gun certificates in 2006 (see Annex Notes 2 and 12). Thirty applications (0.2 per cent) for renewal were refused in 2006.
- The 49,974 shot gun certificates on issue in 2006 covered the possession of 132,181 shot guns, an increase of 2 per cent compared to 2005. In 2006, the average number of shot guns possessed for each certificate was 2.6.
- Strathclyde, Grampian and Northern police force areas jointly accounted for more than half of all firearm and shot gun certificates on issue at the end of 2006.
- The number of firearm and shot gun certificates on issue per head of population was highest in the Northern police force area and lowest in Strathclyde.

### 3. Commentary

#### 3.1 Firearm Certificates (Tables 1 to 3)

- There were 26,234 firearm certificates on issue at the end of 2006, a decrease of 1 per cent from 2005 and continuing the general downward trend in numbers over the last 10 years.
- In 2006, there were 1,156 applications for new firearms certificates, an increase of 7 per cent compared with 2005. Over the ten-year period 1997-2006 the annual number of applications for new firearms certificates has decreased by 11 per cent, from 1,304 in 1997. The number of applications granted in 2006 was 1,147 and 9 applications ( less than 1 per cent) were refused.
- In 2006, 6,605 firearm certificates were renewed, an increase of 2 per cent on 2005 (see Annex Notes 2 and 12). Seventeen applications for renewal were refused, up from 5 refusals in 2005.
- There were 1,389 cancellations of firearm certificates in 2006, compared to 1,372 cancellations in 2005 (see Annex Notes 2 and 12). In addition, 41 firearm certificates were revoked. Cancellations outnumbered successful applications, thus decreasing the number of certificates on issue at the end of the year.

**Chart 2 New granted applications, cancellations and revocations, and total on issue of firearm certificates, Scotland, 1997-2006<sup>(1)(2)</sup>**



(1) Figures for 1998, 1999, 2003 and 2004 are affected by changes in regulations. See Annex Note 12.

(2) For 2005 and 2006, Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

- Over a quarter (7,131) of all firearms certificates on issue were in the Northern police force area, while Grampian and Strathclyde jointly accounted for nearly a third of the total.
- The number of firearm certificates on issue per head of population was highest in the Northern police force area (2,517 per 100,000 population) and lowest in Strathclyde (168 per 100,000 population).
- The 26,234 firearm certificates on issue at December 31 2006 covered the possession of 66,164 firearms, a 3 per cent increase compared to 2005. In addition, the certificates on issue authorised

a further 8,410 firearms to be purchased or acquired (see Annex Note 11). The average number of firearms possessed for each certificate was 2.5 in 2006.

- Eighty-three per cent of certified firearms where the type of weapon was known were rifles (possessed or authorised to be purchased).

### 3.2 Shot Gun Certificates (Tables 4 to 5a)

- There were 49,974 shot gun certificates on issue at the end of 2006, a decrease of 2 per cent on 2005.
- The number of applications for a new shot gun certificate was 1,862 in 2006, very similar to the 2005 figure of 1,833. There were 1,844 successful applications in 2006, compared to 2,879 cancellations.

**Chart 3 New granted applications, cancellations and revocations, and total on issue of shot gun certificates, Scotland, 1997-2006 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>**

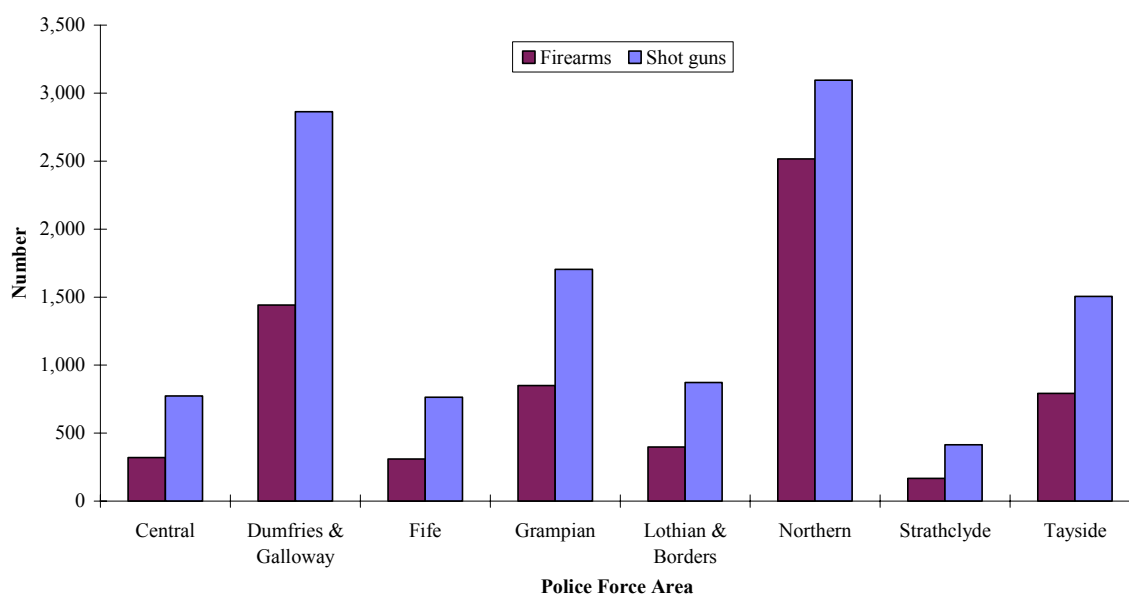


(1) Figures for 1998, 1999, 2003 and 2004 are affected by changes in regulations. See Annex Note 12.  
(2) For 2005 and 2006, Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

- There were 13,400 renewed shot gun certificates in 2006, a decrease of 2 per cent compared with 13,690 renewals in 2005 (see Annex Notes 2 and 12). Thirty applications (0.2 per cent) for renewal were refused in 2006, compared to 8 refusals in 2005.
- In 2006, 2,879 shotgun certificates were cancelled, a decrease of 10 per cent compared with 3,215 cancellations in 2005 (see Annex Notes 2 and 12), while 77 were revoked, an increase of 33 per cent on the 58 certificates revoked in 2005.
- Strathclyde (9,126), Grampian (9,036) and Northern (8,770) police force areas jointly accounted for more than half of all shot gun certificates on issue at the end of 2006.
- The number of shot gun certificates on issue per head of population was highest in Northern police force area (3,096 per 100,000 population) and lowest in Strathclyde (413 per 100,000 population).

- The 49,974 shot gun certificates on issue in 2006 covered the possession of 132,181 shot guns, an increase of 2 per cent compared to 2005. In 2006, the average number of shot guns possessed for each certificate was 2.6.

**Chart 4 Firearm and shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December 2006 per 100,000 population**



### 3.3 *Firearm Dealers (Tables 6 and 7)*

- There were 283 registered firearm dealers in Scotland in 2006, up from 275 in 2005.
- In 2006, 31 dealers had their request for renewal of their registration granted, with 26 new dealer registrations granted. There were no refusals for new or renewal of registration among dealers, while 18 registrations were cancelled.

### 3.4 *Visitors' Permits (Table 8)*

- The number of applications for Visitors' Permits from both EC and non-EC residents in 2006 totalled 2,401 for firearms (down from 2,509 in 2005) and 4,380 for shot guns (down from 4,815 in 2005).

### 3.5 *European Firearm Passes (Table 9)*

- The number of European Firearm Passes on issue at the end of 2006 was 974, compared to 891 in 2005.

### 3.6 *Article 7 Authorities (Table 10)*

- There were 3 applications (granted) for Article 7 Authorities made by certificate holders in 2006, compared to 1 in 2005.

#### **4. Appendix of tables**

##### ***Firearm certificates***

*Table 1* Firearm certificates : New applications (granted and refused) and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1997-2006

*Table 2* Firearm certificates : Applications for new and renewals (granted and refused); variations, cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December 2006, by police force area

*Table 2A* Firearm certificates : Number of cancellations, revocations and certificates and percentage on issue at 31 December, 1997-2006

*Table 3* Firearm certificates : Number of firearms possessed on certificate and firearms authorised to be purchased or acquired on certificate in force at the end of the year by type of weapon, 2006

##### ***Shot gun certificates***

*Table 4* Shot gun certificates : New applications (granted and refused) and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1997-2006

*Table 5* Shot gun certificates : Applications for new and renewals (granted and refused); cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December 2006, by police force area

*Table 5A* Shot gun certificates : Number of cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1997-2006

##### ***Firearm dealers***

*Table 6* Firearms dealers : New applications for registration (of which granted and refused) and dealers registered at 31 December, 1997-2006

*Table 7* Firearms dealers : New and renewal applications for registration from dealers (granted and refused); dealers registered at 31 December 2006, by police force area

##### ***Visitors' Permits***

*Table 8* Visitors' Permits : Number of applications from EC and non-EC residents by police force area, 2006

##### ***European Firearm Passes***

*Table 9* European Firearm Passes : Applications for new and renewals; variations, cancellations and passes on issue at 31 December 2006, by police force area

##### ***Article 7 Authorities***

*Table 10* Number of applications (granted) by certificate and non-certificate holders and for possession outside UK, 1997-2006

**Firearm certificates : New applications (granted and refused)  
and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1997-2006**

**Table 1**

**Scotland**

**Number**

Year	Applications <sup>(1)</sup> for new firearm certificate		Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December <sup>(2) (3)</sup>
	Granted	Refused	
1997	1,291	13	31,094
1998	962	20	31,072
1999	857	12	30,536
2000	1,152	10	28,778
2001	1,308	15	27,302
2002	1,214	17	26,212
2003	1,023	14	26,605
2004	1,086	12	26,897
2005	1,059	18	26,511
2006	1,147	9	26,234

(1) For 2005 and 2006, Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

(2) Grampian police force, up to and including 1998, relied upon a manual auditing system. The year 1999 was the first to be monitored by a dedicated firearms licensing computer and the figures produced for the annual return in January 2000 (for the year 1999) showed serious differences when compared with the previously submitted figures for 1998. The previously produced manual figures relied upon an arithmetical calculation which it is now clear, over the course of many years, produced increasingly inaccurate figures.

(3) In 2001, Lothian & Borders implemented a fully computer-generated firearms certificates statistical return. This resulted in the number of firearm certificates, shotgun certificates (on issue) and registered firearms dealers at 31 December 2001 being recorded as very slightly lower than expected based on the equivalent figures recorded on 31 December 2000.

**Firearm certificates : Applications for new and renewals (granted and refused); variations, cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December 2006, by police force area**

**Table 2  
Number & Rate**

Police force area	Applications						Cancellations <sup>(2)</sup>	Revocations <sup>(2)</sup>	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December per 100,000 popn <sup>(3)</sup>
	New firearm certificate		Renewal of firearm certificate		Variation of firearm certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Fee <sup>(1)</sup> Charged	No Fee Charged				
Central	48	-	239	-	28	32	48	2	917	320
Dumfries & Galloway	70	2	518	1	64	93	89	2	2,135	1,442
Fife <sup>(4)</sup>	77	-	277	-	29	48	84	1	1,113	310
Grampian	235	-	1,147	4	181	110	258	7	4,503	850
Lothian & Borders	160	2	927	1	124	158	182	8	3,624	398
Northern	238	3	1,845	5	265	445	354	12	7,131	2,517
Strathclyde	156	2	910	5	163	177	191	7	3,706	168
Tayside	163	-	742	1	136	247	183	2	3,105	793
<b>All forces</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6,605</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>26,234</b>	<b>513</b>

(1) A fee is charged where a variation increases the number of firearms authorised by the certificate.

(2) Cancellation of a certificate is undertaken by the holder; revocations are at the authority of the Chief Constable and occur in instances where it is believed the holder should no longer be allowed to possess a firearm.

(3) Population as at mid-June 2006.

(4) Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

**Firearm certificates : Number of cancellations<sup>(1)(2)</sup>, revocations and certificates and percentage on issue at 31 December, 1997 - 2006**

**Table 2A  
Number & Percentage**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Number of certificates on issue at 31 December<sup>(3)(4)</sup></b>	31,094	31,072	30,356	28,778	27,302	26,212	26,605	26,897	26,511	26,234
<b>Number of cancellations</b>	2,069	918	777	2,752	2,651	2,241	657	772	1,372	1,389
<b>Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December</b>	6.5	3.0	2.5	9.0	9.2	8.2	2.5	2.9	5.1	5.2
<b>Number of revocations</b>	80	61	74	48	44	48	34	37	35	41
<b>Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December</b>	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2

(1) Figures for 1998, 1999, 2003 and 2004 are affected by changes in regulations. See Annex Note 12.

(2) For 2005 and 2006, Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

(3) Grampian police force, up to and including 1998, relied upon a manual auditing system. The year 1999 was the first to be monitored by a dedicated firearms licensing computer and the figures produced for the annual return in January 2000 (for the year 1999) showed serious differences when compared with the previously submitted figures for 1998.

The previously produced manual figures relied upon an arithmetical calculation which it is now clear, over the course of many years, produced increasingly inaccurate figures.

(4) In 2001, Lothian & Borders implemented a fully computer-generated firearms certificates statistical return. This resulted in the number of *firearm certificates*, *shotgun certificates* and registered firearms dealers at 31 December 2001 being recorded as very slightly lower than expected based on the equivalent figures recorded at 31 December 2000

**Firearm certificates : Number of firearms possessed on certificate and firearms authorised to be purchased or acquired on certificate in force at the end of the year by type of weapon, 2006 <sup>(1)</sup>**

**Table 3**

**Scotland**

**Number**

Firearms on certificate	Type of weapon										Total <sup>(5)</sup>
	Section 1 shot gun	Rifle	Handgun <sup>(2)</sup>	Carbine		Muzzleloader		Airweapon <sup>(3)</sup>		Miscellaneous <sup>(4)</sup>	
				Under lever	Bolt action	Rifle	Handgun	Rifle	Handgun		
Possessed	1,601	44,101	550	135	12	213	483	240	255	4,808	<b>66,164</b>
Authorised to be purchased / acquired	150	5,447	90	9	1	59	163	99	-	969	<b>8,410</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>49,548</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>5,777</b>	<b>74,574</b>

(1) See Note 11 of Annex

(2) Includes those weapons which were exempt from the Firearms (Amendment)(No 2) Act 1997 e.g. single shot humane killers, shot pistols, grade 1 starters, trophies of war, antique firearms and 'handguns' used by the SSPCA.

(3) See Note 6 of Annex

(4) Includes weapons such as section 5 firearms, tranquillising rifles etc.

(5) Scotland Total does not match the sum of weapon types, for the following reasons:

(i) Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

(ii) Total number of firearms possessed and firearms authorised to be purchased/acquired for Tayside was 13,739 and 1,459 respectively.

However, due to the computer system in use a breakdown by type of weapon could not be provided. Tayside's figures are however included in the Scottish totals shown above.

**Shot gun certificates : New applications (granted and refused)  
and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1997-2006**

**Table 4**

Scotland

Number

Year	Applications <sup>(1)</sup> for new shot gun certificate		Shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December <sup>(2) (3)</sup>	Number of shotguns held on certificate
	Granted	Refused		
1997	1,727	34	63,215	n/a
1998	1,494	36	63,100	129,563
1999	1,107	35	62,919	127,494
2000	1,579	52	58,627	123,994
2001	1,806	34	54,634	121,472
2002	1,672	46	51,778	122,551
2003	1,618	38	52,421	125,395
2004	1,369	31	52,409	129,218
2005	1,833	26	51,029	129,630
2006	1,844	18	49,974	132,181

(1) For 2005 and 2006, Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

(2) Grampian police force, up to and including 1998, relied upon a manual auditing system. The year 1999 was the first to be monitored by a dedicated firearms licensing computer and the figures produced for the annual return in January 2000 (for the year 1999) showed serious differences when compared with the previously submitted figures for 1998. The previously produced manual figures relied upon an arithmetical calculation which it is now clear, over the course of many years, produced increasingly inaccurate figures.

(3) In 2001, Lothian & Borders implemented a fully computer-generated firearms certificates statistical return. This resulted in the number of *firearm certificates*, *shotgun certificates (on issue)* and *registered firearms dealers* at 31 December 2001 being recorded as very slightly lower than expected based on the equivalent figures recorded on 31 December 2000.

**Shot gun certificates : Applications for new and renewals (granted and refused); cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December 2006, by police force area**

**Table 5  
Number & Rate**

Police force area	Applications				Cancellations <sup>(1)</sup>	Revocations <sup>(1)</sup>	Shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December	Shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December per 100,000 popn <sup>(2)</sup>
	New shot gun certificate		Renewal of shot gun certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Central	74	1	590	1	126	2	2,215	773
Dumfries & Galloway	134	5	1,165	2	205	7	4,238	2,863
Fife <sup>(3)</sup>	133	-	709	-	226	3	2,741	764
Grampian	355	1	2,547	5	503	16	9,036	1,705
Lothian & Borders	312	4	2,077	-	412	15	7,951	872
Northern	296	3	2,487	7	468	15	8,770	3,096
Strathclyde	303	4	2,287	14	624	9	9,126	413
Tayside	237	-	1,538	1	315	10	5,897	1,506
<b>All forces</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2,879</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>49,974</b>	<b>977</b>

(1) Cancellation of a certificate is undertaken by the holder; revocations are at the authority of the Chief Constable and occur in instances where it is believed the holder should no longer be allowed to possess a shotgun.

(2) Population as at mid-June 2006.

(3) Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

**Shot gun certificates : Number of cancellations<sup>(1)(2)</sup>, revocations and certificates and percentage on issue at 31 December, 1997 - 2006**

**Table 5A  
Number & Percentage**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Number of certificates on issue at 31 December<sup>(3)(4)</sup></b>	63,215	63,100	62,919	58,627	54,634	51,778	52,421	52,409	51,029	49,974
<b>Number of cancellations</b>	4,379	1,509	1,235	5,612	5,618	4,492	1,016	1,378	3,125	2,879
<b>Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December</b>	6.6	2.4	2.0	8.9	9.6	8.2	2.0	2.6	6.0	5.6
<b>Number of revocations</b>	159	129	175	102	81	67	78	83	58	77
<b>Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December</b>	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2

(1) Figures for 1998, 1999, 2003 and 2004 are affected by changes in regulations. See Annex Note 12.

(2) For 2005 and 2006, Fife Constabulary data on the breakdown of applications and weapon type are not wholly consistent with corresponding certificate totals. See Annex Note 2.

(3) Grampian police force, up to and including 1998, relied upon a manual auditing system. The year 1999 was the first to be monitored by a dedicated firearms licensing computer and the figures produced for the annual return in January 2000 (for the year 1999) showed serious differences when compared with the previously submitted figures for 1998.

The previously produced manual figures relied upon an arithmetical calculation which it is now clear, over the course of many years, produced increasingly inaccurate figures.

(4) In 2001, Lothian & Borders implemented a fully computer-generated firearms certificates statistical return. This resulted in the number of *firearm certificates*, *shotgun certificates* (on issue) and *registered firearms dealers* at 31 December 2001 being recorded as very slightly lower than expected based on the equivalent figures recorded at 31 Deceml

**Firearms dealers : New applications for registration (of which granted and refused) and dealers registered at 31 December, 1997-2006**  
**Scotland**

**Table 6**

**Number**

Year	New application for registration from dealers		Dealers registered at 31 December <sup>(1)</sup>
	Granted	Refused	
1997	12	-	313
1998	23	-	295
1999	13	-	283
2000	13	-	278
2001	25	-	273
2002	33	-	285
2003	16	1	284
2004	18	1	280
2005	24	-	275
2006	26	-	283

(1) In 2001, Lothian & Borders implemented a fully computer-generated firearms certificates statistical return.

This resulted in the number of firearm certificates, shotgun certificates (on issue) and registered firearms dealers at 31 December 2001 being recorded as very slightly lower than expected based on the equivalent figures recorded at 31 December 2000.

**Firearms dealers : New and renewal applications for registration from dealers (granted and refused); dealers registered at 31 December 2006, by police force area**

**Table 7**

**Number**

Police force area	Applications for registration from dealers				Cancellations	Dealers registered at 31 December
	New registration		Renewal of registration			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
Central	2	-	-	-	-	7
Dumfries & Galloway	5	-	4	-	1	22
Fife	1	-	1	-	1	11
Grampian	5	-	7	-	5	47
Lothian & Borders	4	-	3	-	5	25
Northern	1	-	4	-	3	56
Strathclyde	3	-	11	-	3	69
Tayside	5	-	1	-	-	46
<b>All forces</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>283</b>

**Visitors' Permits <sup>(1)</sup> : Number of applications from  
EC and non-EC residents by police force area, 2006**

**Table 8  
Number**

Police force area	Applications				Total Applications	
	EC residents		Non - EC residents			
	Firearms	Shot guns	Firearms	Shot guns	Firearms	Shot guns
Central	59	45	-	10	59	55
Dumfries & Galloway	149	285	9	33	158	318
Fife	50	346	6	50	56	396
Grampian	384	588	78	59	462	647
Lothian & Borders	124	302	9	107	133	409
Northern	857	849	63	88	920	937
Strathclyde	379	191	29	19	408	210
Tayside	192	1,339	13	69	205	1,408
<b>All forces</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>2,401</b>	<b>4,380</b>

(1) See Note 16 of Annex.

**European Firearm Passes : Applications for new and renewals; variations, cancellations  
and passes on issue at 31 December 2006, by police force area**

**Table 9  
Number**

Police force area	Applications issued			Cancellations	European Firearm Passes on issue at 31 December
	New European Firearms Pass <sup>(1)</sup>	Renewal of European Firearms Pass	Variation of European Firearms Pass <sup>(2)</sup>		
Central	10	11	-	11	52
Dumfries & Galloway	8	22	-	11	71
Fife	10	5	-	14	41
Grampian	21	27	-	14	125
Lothian & Borders	45	17	9	2	235
Northern	25	4	6	19	56
Strathclyde	39	33	3	12	280
Tayside	23	26	10	15	114
<b>All forces</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>974</b>

(1) An applicant for an European Firearm Pass must hold a valid firearm or shot gun certificate.

If the applicant holds a certificate and applies for a pass then a European Firearm Pass will be issued.

(2) Variation refers only to the insertion or deletion of firearm particulars on the Pass.

**Article 7 Authorities : Number of applications (granted) by certificate and non-certificate holders and for possession outside UK, 1997-2006**  
**Scotland**

**Table 10**  
**Number**

Year	Number of applications (granted)		
	Cert. holders	Non-cert. holders	For possession outside UK
1997	1	-	1
1998	1	-	1
1999	2	-	1
2000	3	-	-
2001	4	-	-
2002	1	-	-
2003	-	-	-
2004	-	-	-
2005	1	-	-
2006	3	-	-

## **5. Notes on statistics used in this bulletin**

### **Accuracy of the statistics**

1. The statistics in this bulletin are provided by each Scottish police force in an annual aggregate return to the Scottish Executive Justice Department.
2. Despite the efforts of both the Force and the Scottish Police Information Strategy (SPIS), Fife Constabulary has been unable to fully resolve a software problem on their Firearms Licensing Recording System. This has affected the figures returned by the Force for 2005 and 2006. The figures in relation to the total numbers of Firearm and Shotgun certificates held are accurate but the data in relation to applications and variations is not wholly consistent with these totals. The data for Firearms Dealers, Visitors Permit and European Passes is not affected by this problem.
3. The Scotland figures in this bulletin relating to 2005 are different from those published last year. This is because this is the first time that 2005 figures have been published for Fife. Due to Fife's difficulties at the time, last year's bulletin contained 2004 data for Fife instead of 2005. The problems experienced by Fife are not expected to have any effect on the total number of certificates in 2005 and 2006, but will impact slightly on the numbers relating to applications and cancellations in those years, along with the breakdown of weapon type shown in Table 3.

### **Regulations on the issue of firearm and shot gun certificates**

4. All persons acquiring or in possession of a firearm or shot gun must have a certificate issued by the Chief Constable for the police force area in which the person lives, unless they are otherwise exempt. Persons sentenced to any form of custody for a period of three years or more may be prohibited from possessing firearms for a period of up to life, depending upon the sentence.
5. For weapons covered by Section 1 of the 1968 Act and Section 2 of the 1988 Act, which includes rifles, large magazine smooth bore guns and especially dangerous air weapons, the Chief Constable must be satisfied that an applicant has good reason for wanting a weapon, is fit to be entrusted with it, and that the public safety or the peace will not be endangered. The certificate lists the number, type and serial number of each weapon held and any conditions attached (a standard condition is that weapons and ammunition are held in a secure place when not in use).
6. A certificate is required for air weapons of a type declared by the Secretary of State under the Dangerous Air Weapons Rules 1969 (as amended) to be specifically dangerous. The vast majority of air weapons held in Scotland do not require a certificate. Since 20 January 2004 the sale, manufacture and import of Self Contained Gas Cartridge (SCGC) air weapons has been banned. Individuals had until 30 April 2004 to surrender these weapons or apply for a licence. This has had the result of significantly increasing the number of airweapons possessed on certificate compared to previous years.
7. Shot gun certificates, covered by Section 2 of the 1968 Act and Section 2 of the 1988 Act, permit the holder to possess any number of shot guns, which can include pump-action and self-loading weapons which have a magazine which is incapable of holding more than two cartridges but excluding large magazine smooth bore guns. Applications may not be granted or renewed if a Chief Constable has reason to believe that the applicant is prohibited by the Firearms Acts from possessing a shot gun. Nor may applications be granted or renewed unless the Chief Constable is satisfied that the applicant can be permitted to possess a shot gun without danger to public safety or to the peace (Section 3 of the 1988 Act). The certificate specifies the description of the shot guns including, if known, the identification numbers of the guns.

8. Certain types of weapons (e.g. machine guns) are prohibited under Section 5 of the 1968 Act as amended by Section 1 of the 1988 Act; their possession can only be granted by the Secretary of State or Scottish Ministers after careful enquiries by the police.

9. Following the Dunblane incident changes to the existing firearms legislation were introduced to enhance public safety. As a result, the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 ("the 1997 Act") was implemented and thereafter the Firearms (Amendment)(No.2) Act 1997 ("the 1997 (No.2) Act"). Under the 1997 Act, all pistols (otherwise referred to as "handguns") over .22 calibre were banned with effect from 1 October 1997. A hand-in scheme between 1 July and 30 September 1997 resulted in the surrender of 6,262 large calibre handguns in Scotland, while 1,751 small calibre handguns were also handed in voluntarily. Similarly, there was a second hand-in period between 1 February and 28 February 1998 for the surrender of all small calibre handguns (up to and including .22 calibre) under the 1997 (No.2) Act, which came into effect from 1 March 1998. The Scottish surrender saw 1,013 small calibre guns handed in. A number of types of handgun were exempted from the 1997 (No.2) Act including muzzle-loading guns, shot pistols, slaughtering instruments, firearms used for the humane killing of animals, trophies of war etc. A further amnesty ran from 31 March to 30 April 2003 and saw the surrender of 3,392 firearms including 298 rifles, 986 shotguns, 4,776 rifles and 463 air pistols along with 143,916 rounds of ammunition. There was an air gun hand in between 10 March and 3 June 2005 in which 913 weapons were handed in to the police.

10. A firearm or shot gun certificate permits the holder to possess one or more weapons, thus changes in the number of certificates will not necessarily reflect changes in the number of weapons legally held.

11. It is accepted that the total number of firearms covered by certificates will include an element of double counting: two or more individuals may each hold a certificate that allows them to possess the same actual firearm. A certificate allows the holder to either *possess* or authorises them to *purchase or acquire* a weapon or a number of weapons.

### **Regulations on the renewal, cancellation and revocation and variation of firearm and shot gun certificates**

12. In 1994 firearm certificates were valid for three years and required renewal in 1997, but with effect from January 1995 firearm certificates were valid for five years and therefore did not require renewal until January 2000. Certificates can be renewed on application for a further five years. This meant that for the years 1998 and 1999 no certificates required renewal as these were in effect 'missing' years in the regulations. Consequently, the number of certificates due for renewal in 2003 and 2004 was based primarily on the number of new certificates granted in 1998 and 1999. This meant that the number of renewals for 2003 and 2004 was very low compared to previous years. Similarly, the number of cancellations made in any year would appear to be linked to whether they require renewal or not and so the number of cancellations for 2003 and 2004 was also low.

13. To alter the number and type of weapons held on a firearm certificate, an application for a variation must be made to the Chief Constable. A fee is charged where the variation **increases the number** of firearms authorised by the certificate. The expiry date of a shot gun certificate can be aligned with the holder's firearm certificate (Section 11 of the 1988 Act).

14. Following Lord Cullen's Inquiry into the Dunblane incident in 1996, there was a review of information requirements in relation to both firearm and shot gun certificates. As a result, a revised return was introduced with effect from 1 January 1998. This was sent to Chief Constables for completion. The main changes to the form included the addition of new categories on the reasons for revocation and the collection, for the first time, of information on the number of firearms and types of weapon held on certificates.

### **Regulations on firearm dealers certificates**

15. Section 13 of the 1988 Act increased the registration period for dealers from 1 to 3 years. The grounds for refusal for new applications for registration were extended and a register of transactions must be retained for at least 5 years.

### **Regulations on visitors' permits and European firearm passes**

16. The Firearms Act (Amendment) Regulations 1992 which came into force on 1 January 1993 amended firearms legislation in Great Britain to meet the requirement of the EC Weapons Directive which controls the acquisition and possession of weapons in EC Member states.

17. There is no charge for a variation to a Visitors' Permit for a firearm or shot gun when an amendment is made to the existing conditions specified on the permit (excluding numbers of firearms authorised and expiry date). If a change is required which increases the number of firearms or shot guns authorised on the permit, or which extends the expiry date of the permit, then this should be treated as a new application.

18. From January 1993 any EC resident who wants to buy or acquire a category B firearm (e.g. short and semi-automatic rifles, carbines and smooth bore guns, including repeating) in another EC State must, unless they are exempt under the EC Firearms Directive, be able to show that they have the agreement of the authority within their state of residence to purchase or acquire a firearm in another EC State. This agreement is obtained from the local Chief Police Officer for the area in which they reside, and is called an Article 7 Authority. Information relating to the authority of a person to purchase or acquire a firearm/shot gun when in another EC State was first collected centrally in 1994.

### **Other**

19. The following symbols are used in the tables in the bulletin.

- = nil

n/a = not available

# SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STATISTICAL SERVICES

## OUR AIM

The aim of the Statistical Service is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meet the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.

## OBJECTIVES

1. **To produce statistics and analysis relevant to user needs by**
  - Developing the range of statistics and analysis we produce;
  - Where practicable improving timeliness;
  - Providing more statistics disaggregated by age, gender and ethnicity;
  - Developing more data for small areas through the Neighbourhood Statistics project;
  - Contributing to production of comparable statistics across the UK and internationally.
2. **To ensure effective use of our statistics by**
  - Contributing more directly to policy processes inside and where possible outside government;
  - Improving access to and presentation of data and analysis;
  - Improving the advice provided on statistics.
3. **To work effectively with users and providers by**
  - Maintaining arrangements to consult and involve users and providers
  - Involving users and providers in planning developments in outputs and processes
4. **To develop the quality of statistics by**
  - Assuring and improving quality as an integral part of data collection and analysis and through regular reviews in line with National Statistics quality strategy;
  - Developing statistical methods, systems and classifications;
  - Working with the rest of the Government Statistical Service to develop joint approaches/solutions where appropriate.
5. **To assure the integrity of statistics by**
  - Maintaining and promoting integrity through implementation of the National Statistics Code of Practice and related protocols;
  - Safeguarding the confidentiality of data subjects.
6. **To ensure the efficient and effective delivery of statistics products and services by**
  - Making best use of all sources including administrative sources,
  - Minimising the burden on data providers through Survey Monitoring & Advice;
  - Ensuring value for money;
  - Making best use of Information and Communications Technology;
  - Working with other analysts;
  - Ensuring effective communication within the Statistician Group.
7. **To develop our workforce and competences**
  - Ensuring recruitment of staff with the necessary skills and potential;
  - Ensuring development of expertise amongst existing staff;
  - Promoting and upholding the standards of the statistics profession.

## This is a National Statistics publication

"This is a National Statistics publication. It has been produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice and Release Practice Protocol.

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about\\_ns/cop/default.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/cop/default.asp)

These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference."

Details of pre-release access will be provided in the Scottish Executive Statistics Website under 'Forthcoming Releases'

## Correspondence and enquiries

Enquiries on Firearm Certificates Statistics, Scotland, 2006 should be addressed to:

David Cruickshank  
 Scottish Executive Justice Department  
 Analytical Services Division  
 1 WR St Andrew's House  
 EDINBURGH EH1 3DG  
 Telephone: (0131) 244 8322; Fax (0131) 244 2109  
 e-mail: JusticeStatistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries on Scottish Executive statistics can be addressed to:

Ryan Stewart  
 Office of the Chief Statistician  
 Scottish Executive  
 3 Floor West Rear, St Andrews House  
 EDINBURGH EH1 3DG  
 Telephone: (0131) 244 0442; Fax: (0131) 244 0335  
 e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Advice on specific areas of Scottish Executive statistical work can be obtained from staff at the telephone numbers given below:

### Scottish Executive Statistics contacts

Schools – qualifications	(0131) 244 0315
Schools – pupils and teachers	(0131) 244 1689
Further and Higher Education	(0141) 242 0273
The Economy	(0131) 244 2234
Labour market	(0141) 242 5446
Business	(0141) 242 5446
Income, Tax and Benefits	(0131) 244 2583
Local government finance	(0131) 244 7033
Environment, planning & local government staffing	(0131) 244 0445
Equality	(0131) 244 0442
Housing	(0131) 244 7236
Transport	(0131) 244 7255
Health	(0131) 244 3432
Community Care	(0131) 244 3777
Social Justice	(0131) 244 0442
Scottish Executive personnel	(0131) 244 3926
Agricultural census and labour force	(0131) 244 6150
Fisheries	(0131) 244 6441
Courts and law	(0131) 244 2227
Recorded crime	(0131) 244 2635
Prisons	(0131) 244 2147

### Other contacts for Scottish statistics

Forestry Commission	(0131) 314 6337
The Scottish Funding Councils for Higher and Further Education	(0131) 313 6575
General Register Office for Scotland - Vital statistics and publications - Population statistics, census statistics or digital boundary products	(0131) 314 4243 (0131) 314 4254

For **general enquiries about National Statistics** in the United Kingdom Government contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on **020 7533 5888**  
 minicom: 01633 812399  
 Email: info@statistics.gov.uk  
 Fax: 01633 652747  
 Letters: room DG/18, 1 Drummond Gate, LONDON SW1V 2QQ

You can also find National Statistics on the internet - go to **www.statistics.gov.uk**

If you would like to be consulted about new or existing statistical collections or to receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, please register your statistical interest on the Scottish Executive ScotStat web site at **www.scotland.gov.uk/scotstat**

Current staff names, e-mail addresses and the publications listed below as well as a range of other statistical publications can be found on the Scottish Executive Web site at **www.scotland.gov.uk/stats**

Further information on the General Register Office for Scotland is available on the website **www.gro-scotland.gov.uk**

### Most recent Justice Statistical Publications relating to the Crime and Justice theme

Ref no.	Title	Last published	Price
CrJ/2006/7	Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2005-06	September 2006	£2.00
Statistics Release	Reconvictions Of Offenders Discharged From Custody Or Given Non-Custodial Sentences In 2002-03, Scotland	November 2006	N/A
CrJ/2006/8	Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland, 2005-06	November 2006	£2.00
CrJ/2007/1	Drug Seizures by Scottish Police Forces, 2004-05 and 2005-06	January 2007	N/A
CrJ/2007/2	Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics, 2005-06	January 2007	£2.00
CrJ/2007/3	Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts, 2005/06	March 2007	£2.00
CrJ/2007/4	Fire Statistics Scotland, 2005	March 2007	£2.00
CrJ/2007/5	Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2003/04 to 2005/06	March 2007	£2.00

Additional copies of these publications may be purchased from **Scottish Executive Publication Sales, Blackwell's Bookshop, 53 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1YS**, Telephone: 0131 622 8283 or 0131 622 8258, Fax: 0131 557 8148 or 0131 557 8149. Cheques should be made payable to 'Blackwell's Bookshop'.

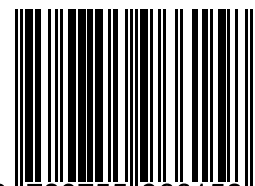
### Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to the Chief Statistician, Mr Rob Wishart, 3rd Floor West Rear, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail rob.wishart@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. We also welcome any comments or suggestions that would help us to improve our standards of service.

ISSN 0264 1178  
 ISBN 978 0 7559 6615 8

Price £2.00

ISBN 978-0-7559-6615-8



9 780755 966158

Crown Copyright  
 Brief extracts from the Crown Copyright material in this publication may be reproduced provided the source is fully acknowledged.