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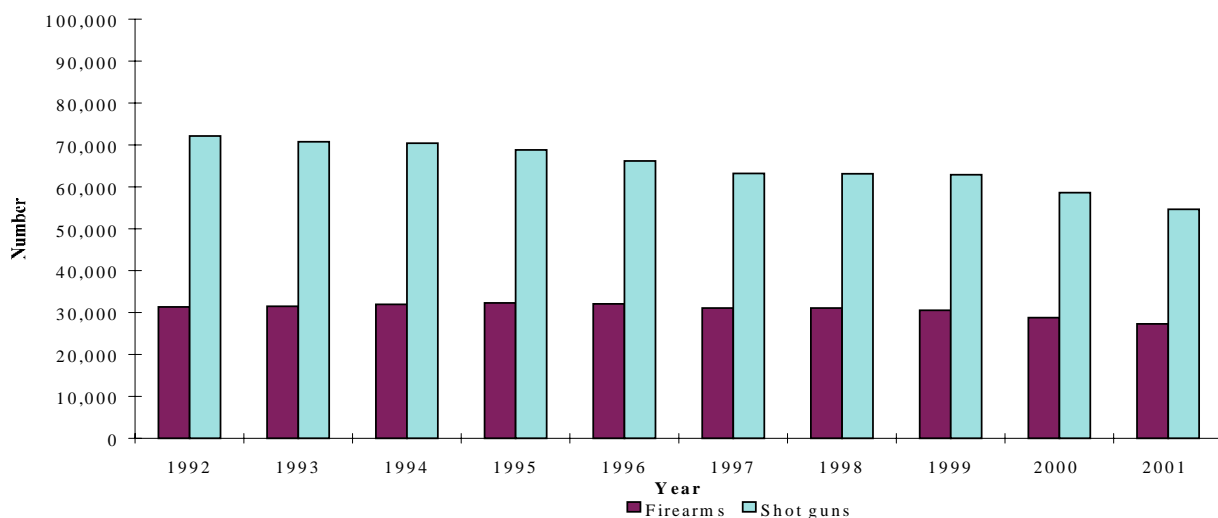
FIREARM CERTIFICATES STATISTICS, SCOTLAND, 2001

1. Introduction

1.1 This bulletin presents information for the years 1992 to 2001 on the issue of firearm and shot gun certificates under the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended). A firearm or shot gun certificate permits the holder to possess one or more weapons, thus changes in the number of weapons legally held will not necessarily result in changes in the number of certificates on issue. The bulletin also contains information on European Community (EC) and non-EC Visitors' Permits and European Firearm Passes which were first introduced in 1994 (see Note 10 of the Annex). Detailed tables can be found in the Appendix and further details of the Firearms Act 1968 ("the 1968 Act"), the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988 ("the 1988 Act"), the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 ("the 1997 Act") and the Firearms (Amendment)(No.2) Act 1997 ("the 1997 (No.2) Act") are provided in the Annex of this bulletin.

1.2 Statistics on the number of crimes and offences involving the *alleged* use of a firearm in 2000 were published in The Scottish Executive statistical bulletin, "*Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland, 2000*" in September 2001. The corresponding figures for 2001 will be published in a bulletin later in the year.

Chart 1 Firearm and shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December, Scotland, 1992-2001



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2. Summary

The figures detailed in this bulletin cover the period in which changes to the firearms legislation were made prohibiting, firstly, the possession of large calibre handguns (above .22 calibre) and thereafter small calibre handguns (up to and including .22 calibre). In addition, there was a hand-in period between 1 July and 30 September 1997 for the surrender of large calibre handguns and a further hand-in period between 1 February and 28 February 1998 for the surrender of small calibre handguns. (For further details please refer to Note 6 of the Annex).

- There were 27,302 firearm certificates on issue at the end of 2001, a decrease of 5 per cent (1,476) on the previous year and the lowest number ever recorded.
- In 2001, there were 1,323 applications for a new firearm certificate, an increase of 14 per cent when compared with 2000. 15 applications (1.1 per cent) were refused. The number of applications granted was 1,308, 156 more than the number in 2000.
- There were 2,651 cancellations of firearm certificates compared with 2,752 in 2000 and 777 in 1999. The lower numbers of cancellations in 1999 can be partly attributed to the fact that 1999 was not a year in which renewal of certificates was required (see paragraph 3.5). In addition, the police revoked 44 firearm certificates.
- As at December 2001, there were 54,634 shot gun certificates on issue, a decrease of 7 per cent (3,993) compared with 58,627 in 2000, and the lowest number ever recorded.
- The number of applications for a new shot gun certificate was 1,840 in 2001, 209 (13 per cent) more than the number recorded in 2000. Permission was granted for 1,806 new shot gun certificates, an increase of 227 from the 1,579 granted in 2000. 34 applications (2 per cent) were refused. There were 5,618 cancellations and 81 revocations of shot gun certificates in 2001.
- The 27,302 firearm certificates on issue at December 31 2001 covered approximately 59,129 firearms (0.5 per cent increase on 2000). The 54,634 shot gun certificates on issue covered approximately 121,472 shot guns (2 per cent decrease on 2000).
- There were 273 registered firearm dealers in Scotland in 2001, compared with 278 in 2000. In 2001, 178 dealers had their request for renewal of their registration granted.
- The number of applications for Visitors' Permits from both EC and non-EC residents in 2001 totalled 2,584 for firearms (down from 3,293 in 2000) and 4,776 for shot guns (down from 5,589 in 2000).
- The number of European Firearm Passes on issue at the end of 2001 was 559, compared to 557 in 2000.

3. Firearm certificates (Tables 1, 2 and 2A)

Number of firearm certificates on issue and new applications (Table 1)

3.1 At the end of 2001, 27,302 firearm certificates were on issue, a decrease of 5 per cent (1,476) on the number on issue at the end of 2000. During the mid-1980s there was a steady upward trend apparent in the number of firearm certificates on issue at each year end, reaching a peak of 38,465 in 1987. Following the implementation of the 1988 Act, the number of firearm certificates on issue fell by approximately 5,000 to 33,540 in 1989 and continued to fall in subsequent years, to number 31,382 in 1992. Between 1992 and 1995 the number of firearm certificates on issue at each year end increased slightly before resuming the downward trend from 1996. The total number of firearm certificates on issue at 31 December 2001 was the lowest figure ever recorded.

3.2 In 2001, there were 1,323 applications for a new firearms certificate, an increase of 14 per cent when compared with 2000. Permission was granted for 1,308 new firearm certificates, 156 more than the number in 2000. Over the ten year period 1992-2001 the annual number of applications for new firearm certificates decreased by 29 per cent, from 1,860 in 1992 to 1,323 in 2001. Of the 1,323 applications for a new firearm certificate in 2001, 15 (1.1 per cent) were refused.

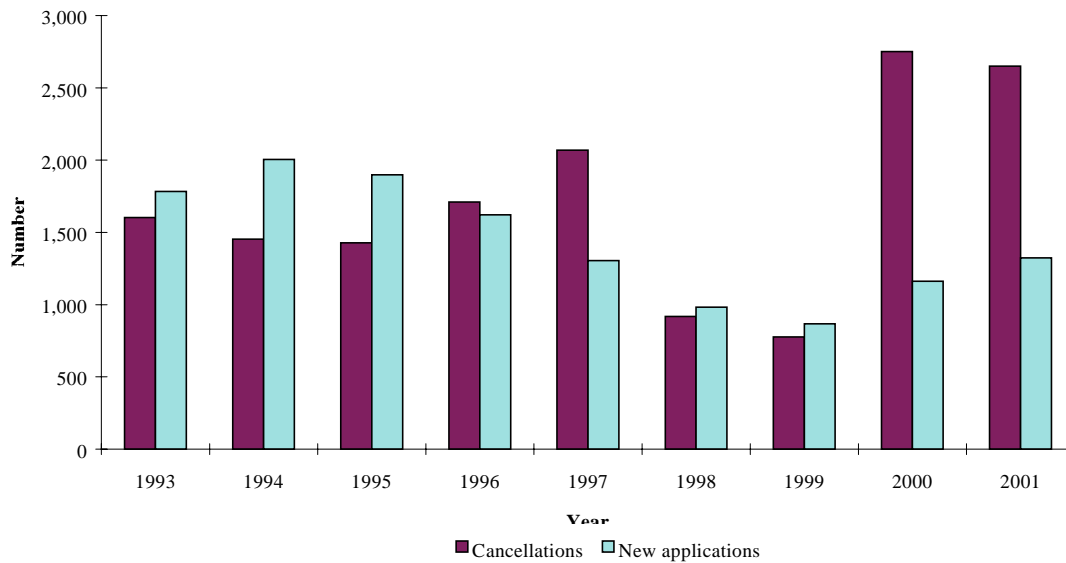
Number of firearm certificates cancelled, renewed, varied and revoked (Tables 2 and 2A)

3.3 Following the Dunblane incident in March 1996, legislative changes were made to the Firearms Act 1968. Section 5 of the 1968 Act (as amended by the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997) was changed to prohibit the possession of certain small firearms and, in particular, the prohibition of all large calibre handguns with effect from 1 October 1997. A further change to section 5 of the 1968 Act, resulting from the implementation of the Firearms (Amendment)(No.2) Act 1997, came into effect from 1 March 1998, prohibiting small calibre handguns. Further details of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 and Firearms (Amendment)(No.2) Act 1997 are provided in Note 6 of the Annex.

3.4 In advance of the 1 October 1997 implementation date there was a hand-in period between 1 July and 30 September 1997 which enabled existing owners of any 'soon to be' prohibited firearms to hand them in to the police. In such cases the firearm certificate may have been cancelled or varied (no fee charged) depending on the number and type of firearms listed on the certificate. Alternatively, the certificate may still be in place with changes made only to the **number** of firearms held i.e. a large calibre handgun surrendered and certificate changed to include only the remaining other firearms. Similarly, during the second hand-in period, 1 February to 28 February 1998, firearm certificate holders were required to surrender all small calibre handguns. In the majority of cases the certificate was varied and not cancelled i.e. the holder replaced a small calibre handgun with another legitimate firearm.

3.5 In 2001 there were 2,651 cancellations of existing certificates (9 per cent when expressed as a percentage of the total number of firearm certificates on issue at 31 December 2000). This compares with 2,752 in 2000 and 777 in 1999 (9 per cent and 2.5 per cent when expressed as a percentage of the 1999 and 1998 figures respectively). In these circumstances the holder chooses not to (or fails to) renew their certificate. The reason for the lower numbers of cancellations in 1999 compared to 2001 was largely due to 2001 being a *renewal year* whereas 1999 was not i.e. 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. Therefore firearm certificates issued in 1996 required renewal in January 2001.

Chart 2 New applications and cancellations of firearm certificates, Scotland 1993-2001



3.6 In 2001, 6,954 firearm certificates were renewed, about 68 per cent of the number of certificates then due to expire (See Note 7 of the Annex for details of this calculation) and 20 applications for renewal were refused. In comparison, 6,890 firearm certificates were renewed, and 8 applications for renewal were refused in 2000. The number of renewals in these years is considerably higher than in 1998 and 1999 because 2000 and 2001 were renewal years, whereas 1998 and 1999 were not (see paragraph 3.5 above).

3.7 The number and types of firearm held on a certificate may be varied on application. A fee is charged where a variation increases the number of firearms authorised by the certificate (see Note 7 of the Annex). In 2001, 553 certificates were varied where a fee was charged, 2 per cent of the total number of certificates on issue at the end of 2001. Similarly, 4 per cent of certificates were varied where no fee was charged (1,119 variations).

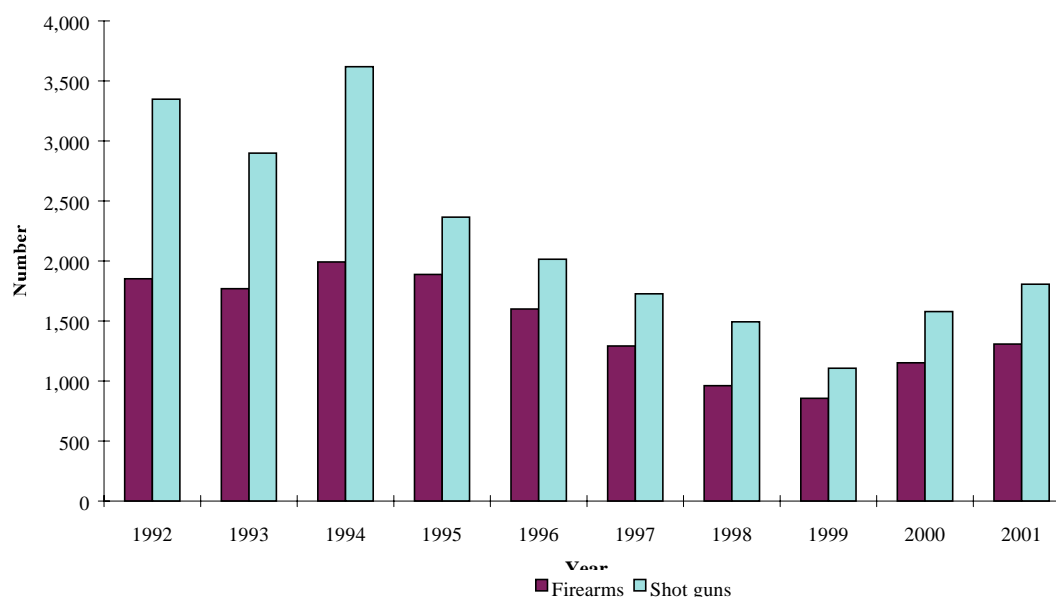
3.8 Certificates may be revoked at any time if the Chief Constable decides that the holder should no longer be allowed to possess a firearm. In 2001, 44 certificates were revoked compared with 48 in 2000. The 2001 figure represented 0.2 per cent of the total on issue at the end of the previous year.

Analysis by police force area (Table 2)

3.9 Over a quarter (7,328) of all firearm certificates on issue at the end of 2001 were in the Northern police force area, a similar proportion to that evident since 1996. In 2001, as in the previous five years, Grampian and Strathclyde jointly accounted for around a further third of the total. The number of firearm certificates on issue per head of population was highest in the Northern police force area (2,639 per 100,000 population) and lowest in Strathclyde (177 per 100,000 population).

3.10 Grampian Police recorded the highest number of applications granted for new firearm certificates in 2001 (a total of 329; 25 per cent of all applications granted). Five out of the eight police forces showed an increase in the number of new applications granted in 2001 when compared to 2000; most significant of those being Strathclyde (up 75 per cent) and Northern (up 22 per cent). In contrast, after a 146 per cent increase last year, Dumfries & Galloway showed a 7 per cent decrease in 2001.

Chart 3 New applications for firearm and shot gun certificates granted, Scotland 1992-2001



Number and type of weapon held on certificate

3.11 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.

3.12 Table A overleaf summarises the type of weapon and number of firearms covered by certificates on issue at 31 December 2001. A certificate allows the holder to either, *possess* or authorises them to *purchase or acquire* a weapon or a number of weapons. It is accepted that the total of 68,130 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. Compared with 2000, there was an increase in the numbers of weapons possessed and a decrease in the numbers of authorisations to purchase/acquire. The 27,302 firearm certificates on issue at December 31 2001 covered approximately 59,129 firearms (0.5 per cent increase on 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, 2001

Table A

Firearms on certificate	Type of weapon									Total ⁽³⁾	
	Section 1 shot gun	Rifle	Handgun ⁽¹⁾	Carbine		Muzzleloader		Airweapon			Miscellaneous ⁽²⁾
				Under lever	Bolt action	Rifle	Handgun	Rifle	Handgun		
Possessed	1,577	43,062	527	293	18	204	355	164	23	3,065	59,129
Authorised to be purchased / acquired	206	6,269	56	55	5	78	201	96	10	745	9,001
Total	1,783	49,331	583	348	23	282	556	260	33	3,810	68,130

(1) 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.

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

(3) Total number of firearms possessed and firearms authorised to be purchased/acquired for Tayside was 9,841 and 1,280 respectively. However, due to a new computer installation a breakdown by type of weapon could not be provided. Tayside's figures are however included in the Scottish totals shown above.

4. Shot gun certificates (Tables 3, 4 and 4A)

Number of shot gun certificates on issue and new applications (Table 3)

4.1 At the end of 2001, a total of 54,634 shot gun certificates were on issue, the lowest level ever recorded. This represented 3,993 (7 per cent) fewer certificates than the 58,627 certificates in 2000 and 34,859 (39 per cent) below the number on issue in 1988 when the number of shot gun certificates on issue reached its peak. Since 1988 the number of shot gun certificates on issue at each year end has decreased; this contrasts with the period prior to the implementation of the 1988 Act when the numbers were increasing steadily. Comparisons between 1998 and 1999 were affected by Grampian police force changing from a manual system to a computerised system for recording the numbers of firearms and shot gun certificates on issue. (see note 13 of the Annex). Of the total number of shot gun certificates in force at 31 December 2001, the *approximate* number of shot guns **possessed** on certificate was 121,472. (The same recording practices applicable to firearms - see paragraph 3.12 - also apply to shot guns).

4.2 In 2001 there were 1,840 applications for a new shot gun certificate, 209 (13 per cent) more than the number recorded in 2000. Permission was granted for 1,806 new shot gun certificates, an increase of 227 from the 1,579 granted in 2000. In 2001, 34 new applications (2 per cent of all new applications) were refused.

Number of shot gun certificates renewed, cancelled and revoked (Tables 4 and 4A)

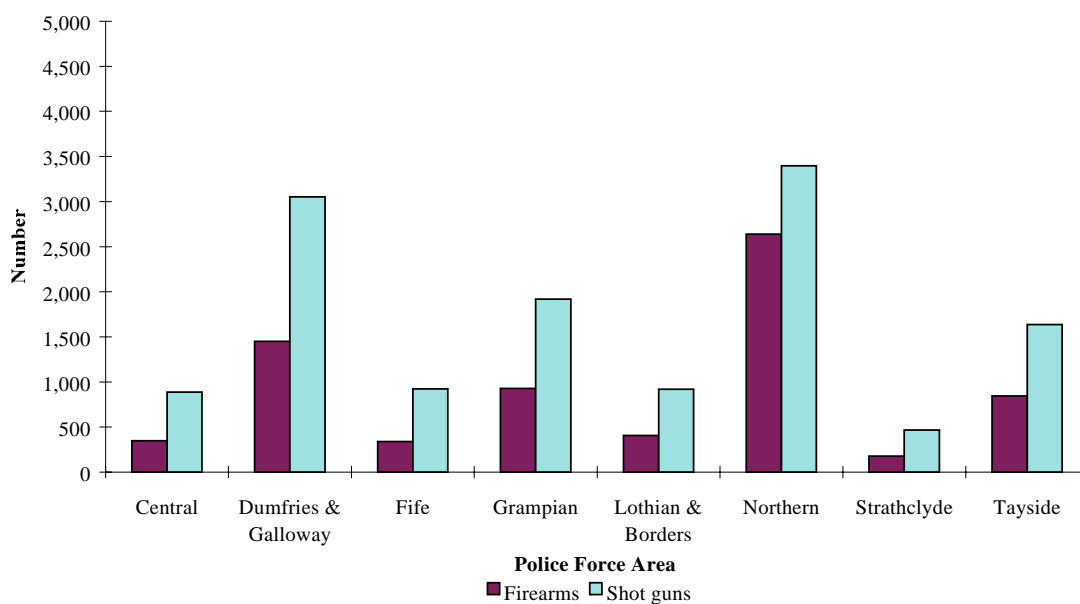
4.3 The number of shot gun certificates renewed in 2001 was 14,765 and 27 applications for renewal were refused. There were 5,618 cancellations of existing certificates, representing 10 per cent of the total number of shot gun certificates on issue at the end of the previous year. There were 81 revocations of shot gun certificates in 2001 (0.1 per cent of the total number of shot gun certificates on issue at the end of the previous year).

Analysis by police force area (Table 4)

4.4 In 2001, Strathclyde (10,545), Grampian (10,032) and Northern (9,430) police areas jointly constituted more than half of all shot gun certificates on issue at the end of the year. The number of shot gun certificates on issue per head of population at 31 December 2001 was highest in Northern police force area (3,396 per 100,000 population) and lowest in Strathclyde (466 per 100,000 population). In Scotland as a whole, there were 1,068 shot gun certificates on issue at the end of 2001 per 100,000 population compared with 1,145 per 100,000 population at the end of 2000.

4.5 Northern Police recorded the highest number of applications for new shot gun certificates granted, 367 (20 per cent of the total number of applications granted). Six of the eight police forces recorded an increase in the number of new applications granted in 2001 when compared to the previous year. The largest increases occurred in: Northern Constabulary (32 per cent), and Strathclyde (26 per cent) and Dumfries and Galloway (21 per cent) police areas.

Chart 4 Firearm and shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December 2001 per 100,000 population



5. Firearm dealers (Tables 5 and 6)

Number of firearm dealers registered and new applications (Table 5)

5.1 In 2001, the total number of firearm dealers registered fell for the seventh consecutive year. As at December 2001, 273 dealers were registered to sell firearms compared with 278 in 2000 and 350 in the peak year 1994. In 2001, new applications for registration as dealers were granted in 25 cases, 12 more than in 2000, but considerably less than the peak number of new registrations granted in 1993 (48). None of these new applications made in 2001 was refused.

Analysis by police force area (Table 6)

5.2 In 2001, 178 dealers had their request for renewal of their registration granted compared to 27 in 2000, 33 in 1999, 181 in 1998, 24 in 1997 and 35 in 1996. There were no dealers who had their application for the *renewal* of registration refused. Twenty-six per cent of all renewal applications granted were recorded by Strathclyde Police. (It should be noted that the number of dealers renewing their registration in any one year varies according to the duration of the firearm dealer's registration (Section 13 of the 1988 Act increased the registration period for dealers from 1 to 3 years)).

6. Visitors' Permits (Table 7)

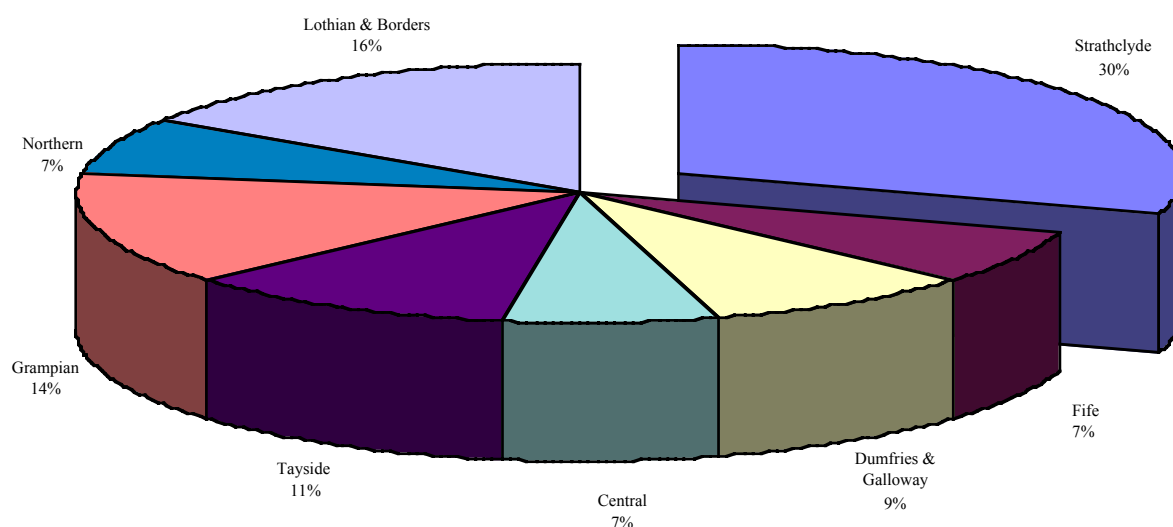
6.1 The Firearms Acts (Amendment) Regulations 1992 which came into force on 1 January 1993 amended firearms legislation in Great Britain to meet the requirement of the EC Weapons Directive which controls the acquisition and possession of weapons in EC Member states.

6.2 Information on the number of applications for Visitors' Permits from EC and non-EC residents was collected centrally for the first time in 1994. In 2001 there was a total of 2,584 applications for a Visitors' Permit from EC and non-EC residents for a *firearm* (down from 3,293 in 2000) and 4,776 applications for a *shot gun* (down from 5,589 in 2000). Tayside Police received 34 per cent of the total number of applications for a shot gun permit while 37 per cent of the total number of applications for a firearm permit were made to Northern Constabulary.

7. European Firearm Passes (Table 8)

7.1 Similar to Visitors' Permits, information on the number of applications for a European Firearm Pass has been collected centrally since 1994. In 2001, the total number of European Firearm Passes on issue at 31 December was 559 compared to 557 in 2000. Strathclyde Police recorded the highest number of passes on issue (170) and Fife the lowest (37).

Chart 5 Number of European Firearm Passes on issue at 31 December, 2001



8. Article 7 Authorities

8.1 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.

8.2 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. The number of such applications granted is small; summary figures for the period 1994-2000 are given in Table B below.

Article 7 Authorities : Number of applications (granted) by certificate and non-certificate holders and for possession outside UK, 1995-2001

Table B

Scotland

Number

Year	Number of applications (granted)		
	Cert. holders	Non-cert. holders	For possession outside UK
1994	4	-	-
1995	3	-	1
1996	-	-	1
1997	1	-	1
1998	1	-	1
1999	2	-	1
2000	3	-	-
2001	4	-	-

9. Appendix of tables

Firearm certificates

Table 1 Firearm certificates : New applications (granted and refused) and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1992-2001

Table 2 Firearm certificates : Applications for new and renewals (granted and refused); variations, cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December by police force area, 2001

Table 2A Firearm certificates : Number of cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1992-2001

Shot gun certificates

Table 3 Shot gun certificates : New applications (granted and refused) and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1992-2001

Table 4 Shot gun certificates : Applications for new and renewals (granted and refused); cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December by police force area, 2001

Table 4A Shot gun certificates : Number of cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1992-2001

Firearm dealers

Table 5 Firearms dealers : New applications for registration (of which granted and refused) and dealers registered at 31 December, 1992-2001

Table 6 Firearms dealers : New and renewal applications for registration from dealers' (granted and refused); dealers registered at 31 December by police force area, 2001

Visitors' Permits

Table 7 Visitors' Permits : Number of applications from EC and non-EC residents by police force area, 2001

European Firearm Passes

Table 8 European Firearm Passes : Applications for new and renewals; variations, cancellations and passes on issue at 31 December by police force area, 2001

**Firearm certificates : New applications (granted and refused)
and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1992-2001**

Table 1

Scotland

Number

Year	Applications for new firearm certificate		Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December ^{(1) (2)}
	Granted	Refused	
1992	1,851	9	31,382
1993	1,770	13	31,475
1994	1,991	14	31,952
1995	1,889	9	32,317
1996	1,600	22	32,053
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

(1) 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.

(2) 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 2001, by police force area

Table 2
Number & Rate

Police force area	Applications						Cancellations ⁽³⁾	Revocations ⁽³⁾	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December ⁽⁴⁾	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 December per 100,000 popn ⁽¹⁾
	New firearm certificate		Renewal of firearm certificate		Variation of firearm certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Fee ⁽²⁾ Charged	No Fee Charged				
Central	54	1	253	-	11	26	71	2	961	346
Dumfries & Galloway	110	3	595	1	50	119	176	0	2,113	1,449
Fife	44	1	291	-	27	33	139	10	1,186	338
Grampian	329	3	1,176	5	78	121	547	8	4,851	927
Lothian & Borders ⁽⁴⁾	141	1	923	1	53	125	294	9	3,611	406
Northern	279	3	1,800	10	180	380	658	10	7,328	2,639
Strathclyde	207	1	981	1	78	174	456	1	3,996	177
Tayside	144	2	935	2	76	141	310	4	3,256	845
All forces	1,308	15	6,954	20	553	1,119	2,651	44	27,302	534

(1) Population as at mid-June 2000. Population estimates for 2001 were not available at the time of going to press.

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

(3) 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.

(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 December 2000.

Firearm certificates : Number of cancellations, revocations and certificates and percentage on issue at 31 December, 1992 - 2001

Table 2A
Number & Percentage

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of certificates on issue at 31 December ^{(1) (2)}	31,382	31,475	31,952	32,317	32,053	31,094	31,072	30,356	28,778	27,302
Number of cancellations	NA	1,602	1,453	1,427	1,711	2,069	918	777	2,752	2,651
Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December	NA	5.1	4.6	4.5	5.3	6.5	3.0	2.5	9.0	9.2
Number of revocations	34	33	23	33	86	80	61	74	48	44
Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

**Shot gun certificates : New applications (granted and refused)
and certificates on issue at 31 December, 1992-2001**

Table 3

Scotland

Number

Year	Applications for new shot gun certificate		Shot gun certificates on issue at 31 December ^{(1) (2)}
	Granted	Refused	
1992	3,349	37	72,143
1993	2,898	47	70,781
1994	3,618	35	70,424
1995	2,365	24	68,815
1996	2,015	52	66,185
1997	1,727	34	63,215
1998	1,494	36	63,100
1999	1,107	35	62,919
2000	1,579	52	58,627
2001	1,806	34	54,634

(1) 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.

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Shotgun certificates : Applications for new and renewals (granted and refused); cancellations, revocations and certificates on issue at 31 December 2001, by police force area

Table 4
Number & Rate

Police force area	Applications				Cancellations ⁽²⁾	Revocations ⁽²⁾	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 December ⁽³⁾	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 December per 100,000 popn ⁽¹⁾
	New shotgun certificate		Renewal of shotgun certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Central	45	2	654	5	218	7	2,463	886
Dumfries & Galloway	121	5	1,368	1	385	8	4,449	3,051
Fife	122	0	864	1	313	16	3,232	922
Grampian	358	1	2,757	2	1,236	10	10,032	1,917
Lothian & Borders (3)	211	7	2,175	3	693	15	8,177	918
Northern	367	6	2,400	11	953	11	9,430	3,396
Strathclyde	345	1	2,684	1	1,141	5	10,545	466
Tayside	237	12	1,863	3	679	9	6,306	1,636
All forces	1,806	34	14,765	27	5,618	81	54,634	1,068

(1) Population as at mid-June 2000. Population estimates for 2001 were not available at the time of going to press.

(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 shotgun.

(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 at 31 December 2000.

Shotgun certificates : Number of cancellations, revocations and certificates and percentage on issue at 31 December, 1992 - 2001

Table 4A
Number & Percentage

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of certificates on issue at 31 December ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	72,143	70,781	70,424	68,815	66,185	63,215	63,100	62,919	58,627	54,634
Number of cancellations Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December	NA NA	4,057 5.6	3,983 5.6	3,916 5.6	4,389 6.4	4,379 6.6	1,509 2.4	1,235 2.0	5,612 8.9	5,618 9.6
Number of revocations Percentage of number on issue at end of previous December	88 0.1	94 0.1	61 0.1	77 0.1	157 0.2	159 0.2	129 0.2	175 0.3	102 0.2	81 0.1

(1) 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.

(2) 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 applications for registration (of which granted and refused) and dealers registered at 31 December, 1992-2001

Table 5

Scotland

Number

Year	New application for registration from dealers		Dealers registered at 31 December ⁽¹⁾
	Granted	Refused	
1992	29	1	315
1993	48	-	337
1994	27	-	350
1995	21	-	328
1996	15	-	319
1997	12	-	313
1998	23	-	295
1999	13	-	283
2000	13	-	278
2001	25	-	273

(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 2001, by police force area

Table 6

Number

Police force area	Applications for registration from dealers				Dealers registered at 31 December ⁽¹⁾
	New registration		Renewal of registration		
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	
Central	1	-	3	-	6
Dumfries & Galloway	1	-	12	-	16
Fife	-	-	7	-	11
Grampian	4	-	25	-	42
Lothian & Borders ⁽¹⁾	2	-	19	-	30
Northern	5	-	42	-	59
Strathclyde	9	-	46	-	68
Tayside	3	-	24	-	41
All forces	25	-	178	-	273

(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.

**Visitors' Permits ⁽¹⁾ : Number of applications from
EC and non-EC residents by police force area, 2001**

**Table 7
Number**

Police force area	Applications				Total Applications	
	EC residents		Non - EC residents			
	Firearms	Shot guns	Firearms	Shot guns	Firearms	Shot guns
Central	81	105	7	13	88	118
Dumfries & Galloway	149	330	-	37	149	367
Fife	24	209	-	16	24	225
Grampian	325	649	38	129	363	778
Lothian & Borders	100	316	8	100	108	416
Northern	895	824	70	88	965	912
Strathclyde	484	303	10	26	494	329
Tayside	370	1,521	23	110	393	1,631
All forces	2,428	4,257	156	519	2,584	4,776

(1) See Note 11 of Annex.

**European Firearm Passes : Applications for new and renewals; variations, cancellations
and passes on issue at 31 December 2001, by police force area**

**Table 8
Number**

Police force area	Applications issued			Cancellations	European Firearm Passes on issue at 31 December
	New European Firearms Pass ⁽¹⁾	Renewal of European Firearms Pass	Variation of European Firearms Pass ⁽²⁾		
Central	1	15	-	1	39
Dumfries & Galloway	4	12	-	7	49
Fife	7	2	3	3	37
Grampian	11	11	-	12	77
Lothian & Borders	14	11	-	6	87
Northern	16	4	2	15	39
Strathclyde	21	6	3	20	170
Tayside	22	7	-	30	61
All forces	96	68	8	94	559

(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.

10. 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. They are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Regulations on the issue of firearm and shot gun certificates

2. 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.

3. 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 specially 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).

4. 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.

5. 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 after careful enquiries by the police.

6. 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). The 1997 (No.2) Act 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.

7. Firearm and shot gun certificates are valid for five years but can be renewed on application for a further five years.

* The estimates of proportion of firearm and shot gun certificates due to expire as given by:

$$\text{1996 percentage of certificates renewed} = \frac{\text{Actual number of renewals for 2001}}{\text{(1996 new applications + 1996 renewal applications)}} \times 100$$

For example :

$$\text{2001 firearm renewal percentage} = \frac{6,954}{(1,600 + 8,587)} \times 100 = 68 \%$$

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).

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. The following symbol is used throughout the tables in the bulletin.

- = nil

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This publication belongs to the Crime and Justice theme.

Correspondence and enquiries

Enquiries on Firearm Certificates Scotland 2000 should be addressed to:

Charles Brown
 Scottish Executive Justice Department
 Justice Statistics Unit Branch 2
 1 WR, St Andrews House
 EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
 Telephone: 0131 244 8322; Fax: 0131 244 2623
 e-mail: charels.brown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries on Scottish Executive statistics can be addressed to:

Kevin Meenan
 Central Statistics Unit
 Scottish Executive
 4 Floor East Rear, St Andrews House
 EDINBURGH EH1 8DG
 Telephone: (0131) 244 0442; Fax: (0131) 244 0335
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