

15 FEB 2005

14/02/2005

Police Bill Team  
Scottish Executive Justice Department  
Area 1W  
St Andrew's House  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Dear Ms French

REF: Police Bill, Proposals for Legislation. Knife crime. Questions 12,13 and 14.

I wish to respond to the above question posed in the current Police Bill consultation.

**Question 12: Do you agree with the proposal to double the maximum penalty for carrying a knife (or other articles with a blade or point)?**

Yes, but only if the current powers of arrest, for the Police, are not changed.

**Question 13: Do you agree with the proposal to give the police the power to arrest a person whom they reasonably suspect has committed or is committing an offence of carrying a knife (or other articles with a blade or point) or an offensive weapon?**

No. By removing the ability for someone to have legal authority or reasonable excuse to carry a knife (or other articles with a blade or point) you will criminalise the vast majority of the Scottish public. For example, any farmer, angler, gamekeeper, chef, anyone in the building trade, anybody camping or having a picnic, historical re-enactor, gardeners, warehouse workers, office workers, in fact anybody returning from shopping with a knife, scissors, razors or any other article with a blade or point.

By all means come down hard on the criminal elements who use knives etc, but in the process do not turn the majority of law-abiding citizens of Scotland into criminals. Our Prisons are overcrowded as it is.

**Question 14: Do you agree with the proposal to increase the minimum purchase age for knives (and other bladed and pointed objects) to 18?**

Yes, but how are you going to stop parents or older siblings/friends buying knives (and other bladed and pointed objects) to someone under 18? Additionally, how are you going to stop some under the age of 18 buying knives (and other bladed and pointed objects) via the Internet or mail order?

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,



John Campbell