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22/7/05

Dear Sirs,

Consultation - Knife Crime

Knives

Yes Knives *can be* lethal weapons, and *society should not encourage* people to carry them for protection or as a status symbol.

But many ordinary working, often rural, folk **need knives** every day, and the definition of "non-domestic" does not cover this. I use a knife to cut sheep's hooves, cut strings, repair machines, grulloch deer and in many other ways as an angler, shooter and farmer. I need it every day. I would see this as yet another attack on rural life.

Increasing the age from 16 to 18 is pointless. If society continues to treat 16 and 17 year olds as children then of course they will behave like children.

Swords

The Executive's consultation summary published the **numbers of knife crimes** but did not publish the number of **sword crimes**. Why not? Is it because it is small? Is this a sledgehammer to crack a nut? Whilst on statistics: **how many of these knife murders (average 54 a year) are using domestic knives?** Anyway many people own old swords for decorative, historical, sentimental, family reasons. They should be allowed to do so. The "nanny state" will have to be curtailed soon.

Overall

I urge the Executive to concentrate on the cause not the symptom. Create a society where fewer people want to be violent, don't just try to address the violence after it starts to manifest itself, by trying to take away the methods. There will always be methods. There will always be weapons of some kind.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Steel

A Steel

Consultation Questions

<p>Question 1 Should a licence be needed to sell non-domestic knives?</p> <p><u>No</u> unless definition is widened to</p>
<p>Question 2 What types of knife should be covered by a definition of a non-domestic knife?</p> <p>Those obviously used as an offensive weapon <u>only</u>. Pen knives are included</p>
<p>Question 3 What conditions should be imposed on someone seeking a licence to sell non-domestic knives?</p> <p>Don't licence, unless definition is widened</p>
<p>Question 4 What would be the costs for businesses of licensing the sale of knives?</p> <p>lots - yet more red tape yet higher taxes -</p>

<p>Question 5 Should it be a criminal offence to purchase a (non-domestic) knife from an unlicensed seller?</p> <p>Ridiculous.</p>
<p>Question 6 Should shops require a licence to sell swords?</p> <p>As above don't see need - See letter</p>
<p>Question 7 Should the sale of swords be restricted to require them to sell only to members of approved organisations?</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Question 8 Should the sale of all swords be banned?</p> <p>No</p>

Question 9

If so, should there be any groups who are exempted from that ban (i.e. should there be any reasons/uses for which it remains legitimate to sell swords)?

as above

Question 10

Should the sale of only samurai swords be banned?

as above

Question 11

If so, should any groups of people be exempt from that ban (i.e. should there be any reasons/uses for which it remains legitimate to sell samurai swords)?

as above

Question 12

How should a samurai sword be defined?

as above

Question 13

Is there a case for individual licences for the purchase of swords?

as above

Responsee Information Form

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately.

We will make all responses available to the public in the Scottish Executive Library, unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the website.

Name: A. STEEL

Postal Address:

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Consultation title:

TACKLING KNIFE CRIME - A CONSULTATION

1. Are you responding as:

(a) an individual (go to 2a/b)

(b) on behalf of a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2a. Individuals:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all