

FIREARMS LICENSING

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER
2022



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FIREARMS LICENSE APPLICATIONS PROCESSING TIMES

We can now confirm a significant increase in additional members of the firearms licensing department which consists of both police staff and officers. This has enabled the priorities of the department to concentrate on both grant and renewal applications.

We are currently progressing applications from the following dates:

Devon & Cornwall Police renewals - Feb 2022
Dorset Police renewals - Sep 2021
Devon & Cornwall Police grants - May 2020
Dorset Police grants - May 2020

There are some exceptions to this in each Force area.

Firearm variations are generally processed within 28 days however there will be exceptions where further enquiries are required by the Firearm Enquiry Officers.

CONTACTING THE FIREARMS LICENSING DEPARTMENT

As a result of feedback, we are pleased to announce that, to improve our service, we are taking the opportunity to open our firearms licensing telephone lines for longer. From 9th January 2022, the lines will be open Monday – Friday from 09:30am to 3.30 pm on 01392 225650.

The majority of queries can be answered by reviewing FAQ, located on the force website, however if you still have questions then please contact us. Preferably via email, but you can phone us, or leave a message for us, at our newly opened public enquiry offices.

[Firearms Licensing | Devon and Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

In November our teams have met with our partner organisations from the shooting communities to share learning, best practices and improve our service.

Our staff have also attended a dealership with Devon and Cornwall, where we were able to provide service and advice, at various levels, to attendees.

This type of engagement, and attendance at larger public events, is part of our communications strategy to enhance our visibility and provide our communities with an opportunity to make enquiries on a personal level.



HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

Please submit your renewal application in plenty of time, preferably 12 weeks prior to expiry or at least eight weeks (56 days) prior to your certificate expiry date. Failing to submit a renewal, on time, will result in further processing delays and a potential for you to have to store your guns with another authorised person.

If your application is received at least eight weeks prior to certificate expiry, and we are unable to process your application before expiry, you will receive an eight-week extension letter. This will enable you to continue to legally possess your firearms, shotguns or ammunition without the need to store them with an authorised person.

Ensure you download the GP proforma and ask your GP to complete the form. You must ensure your completed GP form has been forwarded to the firearms licensing department for processing. You will not be granted a certificate without the medical proforma being received and considered as part of your application.

Temporary permit (Section 7)

If you are issued with a Section 7 temporary permit you can continue to possess the firearms/shotguns/section 1 ammunition, held on certificate, without having to put them into storage with another authorised person.

A permit does not authorise the purchase or acquisition of new firearms or ammunition, however shotgun ammunition can be purchased if you have a temporary permit.



ONLINE APPLICATION SERVICES

Our application process is now available online. Please note that whilst we still accept and process paper applications, by exception, the online application is a more secure and efficient process for the customer and the firearms licensing team.

Please note: If you do send a paper application in the post, there is likely to be a delay in processing your application.

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National Firearms Licensing updates

Please note that with effect from 9 November 2022

An update of the non-statutory firearms guidance has been published on gov.uk

[Guide on Firearms Licensing Law.](#)

The amendments to the guidance are as follows:

- Paragraphs 6.37 and 12.67 – guidance on UK Athletics licensed race starters.
- Paragraph 7.10 – re-inserted guidance on the exemption under section 11(6) relating to organised clay pigeon shoots; and,
- Paragraphs 15.27 and 15.28 – new guidance on ‘remote’ sales by registered firearms dealers.