

# Impact Assessment, The Home Office

**Title:** Air weapon access by those under-18 years of age

**IA No** HO0409

**RPC Reference No:** N/A

**Other departments or agencies:** N/A

**Date:** 23 May 2022

**Stage:** Final

**Intervention:** Domestic

**Measure:** Primary legislation

**Enquiries:** Firearms Policy Unit  
public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

**RPC Opinion:** Not Applicable

**Business Impact Target:** Not a regulatory provision

## Cost of Preferred (or more likely) Option (in 2021/22 prices)

<b>Net Present Social Value NPSV (£m)</b>	-1.02	<b>Business Net Present Value BNPV (£m)</b>	0.00	<b>Net cost to business per year EANDCB (£m)</b>	0.00
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### What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?

The Home Office announced a review of the regulation of air weapons in England and Wales in October 2017, following a Coroner's recommendation as a consequence of the accidental death of a child involving an air weapon in 2016. Following the review, the Government proposed changes to air weapons legislation to improve public safety as part of the Firearms Safety Consultation, which ran from 24 November 2020 to 16 February 2021.

### What is the strategic objective? What are the main policy objectives and intended effects?

The strategic objective is to reduce crime. The policy objectives are to limit the harm caused by air weapons, particularly fatal incidents involving young people, by strengthening and clarifying the regulations restricting access to air weapons by those under 18 years of age. This includes locking the air weapon away when not in use and storing ammunition separately. The Government will work with industry to improve safekeeping and handling of air weapons, to ensure that home security devices are supplied with new air weapons; and that dealers explain the importance of secure handling and storage to new owners at the point of sale.

### What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation? Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base)

**Option 1:** 'Do nothing' and continue without strengthening air weapons regulations.

**Option 2:** Introduce measures to strengthen air weapons regulations. The Government will take effective steps to clarify the offence of failing to take 'reasonable precautions' to prevent minors from accessing air weapons. When those aged under 18s years are on the premises 'reasonable precautions' must include locking the air weapon out of sight and storing the ammunition separately. The Government will work with industry to improve the safe-keeping and handling of air weapons, ensuring that home security devices are supplied with all new air weapons, and dealers explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers of new air weapons at the point of sale. This is **the Government's preferred option**.

<b>Main assumptions/sensitivities and economic/analytical risks</b>	<b>Discount rate (%)</b>	3.5
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There is significant uncertainty over the proportion of air weapon owners who do not already possess lockable storage as there is no relevant data. There is also significant uncertainty over the number of new air weapon owners per year.

**Will the policy be reviewed?** It will be reviewed. If applicable, set review date: 10/2025

*I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impact of the leading options.*

Signed by the responsible Minister: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2022

# Summary: Analysis & Evidence

# Policy Option 2

Description: Air weapon access by those under-18 years of age

## FULL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Year(s):	Price Base	2021/22	PV Base	2021/22	Appraisal	10	Transition	1
Estimate of Net Present Social Value NPSV (£m)						Estimate of BNPV (£m)		
Low:	-0.09	High:	-3.44	Best:	-1.02	Best BNPV	0.0	

COSTS, £m	Transition Constant Price	Ongoing Present Value	Total Present Value	Average/year Constant Price	To Business Present Value
Low	0.06	0.04	<b>0.09</b>	0.01	0.0
High	2.41	1.03	<b>3.44</b>	0.36	0.0
Best Estimate	<b>0.69</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.0</b>

### Description and scale of main monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

The estimated total set-up cost to air weapons owners (purchase a padlock or equivalent, to lock their air weapon away) lies in a range of **£0.09 to £3.27 million (PV)**, with a central estimate of **£0.98 million (PV)** over 10 years. This includes the set-up costs for new weapons owners throughout the appraisal period and accounts for the majority of the costs of this policy.

### Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

Police forces may experience some costs from enforcing the new regulations, but it was not possible to quantify these.

BENEFITS, £m	Transition Constant Price	Ongoing Present Value	Total Present Value	Average/year Constant Price	To Business Present Value
Low	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>
High	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>
Best Estimate	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Description and scale of main monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

None.

### Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

It is expected that benefits to public safety will accrue by reducing the number of air weapon incidents, particularly involving those who are under 18 years of age. Due to a lack of data these were not monetised. Breakeven analysis indicates that there will be an overall positive NPSV if the policy leads to a **reduction of 64 violence with injury offences** over the 10-year period.

## BUSINESS ASSESSMENT (Option 2)

Direct impact on business (Equivalent Annual) £m:									
Cost, £m	0.0	Benefit, £m	0.0	Net, £m	<b>0.0</b>				
Score for Business Impact Target (qualifying provisions only) £m:					0.0				
Is this measure likely to impact on trade and investment?					N				
Are any of these organisations in scope?		Micro	Y	Small	Y	Medium	Y	Large	Y
What is the CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent change in greenhouse gas emissions? (Million tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)				Traded:	N/A	Non-Traded:	N/A		

## PEOPLE AND SPECIFIC IMPACTS ASSESSMENT (Option 2)

Are all relevant Specific Impacts included?	Y	Are there any impacts on particular groups?	Y
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# Evidence Base

## A. Strategic objective and overview

### A.1 Strategic objective

1. The strategic objective is to reduce crime and increase public safety. This can only be achieved by government intervention to amend legislation.

### A.2 Background

2. Air weapons are guns that expel projectiles with compressed gas (usually air) rather than with an explosion. With the exception of airsoft guns<sup>1</sup>, air guns capable of muzzle energy of one joule or more are classified as “*lethal barrelled weapons*” and regulated by firearms legislation, in particular, the Firearms Act 1968<sup>2</sup>.
3. Air rifles capable of muzzle energy exceeding 12-foot pounds (about 16.3 joules) are classified as “*especially dangerous*” and it is an offence to possess one without a firearm certificate issued by the police. Certificates will be subject to conditions including, in particular, that the weapon is stored securely. Air pistols capable of muzzle energy of 6-foot pounds (about 8.2 joules) are prohibited weapons – it is an offence to possess one without the authority of the Home Secretary.
4. The Home Office announced a review of the regulation of air weapons in England and Wales in October 2017. This followed a recommendation from the Suffolk coroner in his report into the death of a 13-year old boy, who was accidentally shot with an air rifle in 2016. The Coroner requested that the Government review the regulation of air weapons so that steps may be taken to prevent similar tragedies occurring in the future. The review considered air weapons that are classified as lethal barrelled weapons but not especially dangerous or prohibited. These air weapons can be lawfully held without a certificate in England and Wales. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, responsibility for policy on air weapons is devolved and licensing systems are in place.
5. Although low powered air weapons (that is, in the case of an air rifle below 12 foot pounds and in the case of an air pistol below 6 foot pounds) are not subject to licensing in England and Wales, their sale, possession and use are regulated. There are restrictions on access and possession by those aged under 18 years of age. For example:
  - It is an offence to sell or let on hire firearms and ammunition, including air weapons and their ammunition, to those under 18 years of age.
  - It is an offence for a person under the age of 18 years to purchase or hire an air weapon or ammunition for an air weapon.
  - It is an offence to gift an air weapon or ammunition to a person under the age of 18 years.
  - It is an offence, under section 24ZA of the 1968 Act, for a person in possession of an air weapon to fail to take reasonable precautions to prevent an unauthorised person under 18 years of age gaining access to it. The offence does not apply where, by virtue of section 23 of the Act (see below) the person under the age of 18 years is not prohibited from having the weapon with him.

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<sup>1</sup>As set out in section 57A of the Firearms Act 1968, airsoft guns are guns that are designed to fire only small plastic pellets and are not capable of muzzle energy above 2.5 joules or, in the case of self-loading airsoft guns, 1.3 joules. The Firearms Act 1968 is available at the following link: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/27>

<sup>2</sup>Section 57 of the Firearms Act 1968 sets out the definition of a “lethal barrelled weapon”.

- Under section 22(4) of the 1968 Act, it is an offence for anyone under the age of 18 years to have with them an air weapon or ammunition for an air weapon. Section 23 provides three exceptions to this rule:
    - Section 23(1) - they are under the supervision of a person aged 21 years or over.
    - Section 23(2) - they are shooting as a member of an approved target shooting club or a shooting gallery and the only firearms being used are either air weapons or miniature rifles not exceeding .23-inch calibre.
    - Section 23(3) - the person is 14 years old or above and is on private premises with the consent of the occupier.
6. Under section 24ZA of the 1968 Act, it is an offence for a person in possession of an air weapon to fail to take reasonable precautions to prevent an unauthorised person under 18 years of age gaining access to it. The precautions that would be reasonable in different circumstances are not defined.
  7. The Government consulted on potential changes to legislation to:
    - Strengthen and clarify the “*reasonable precautions*” that must be taken under section 24ZA so that when children are on the premises, these precautions must include locking the air weapons away and storing the ammunition separately.
    - Remove the exception under section 23(3) that permits unsupervised possession by those under 18 years of age on private premises with permission. After consideration of the responses received from the consultation, this exception will remain in force.
  8. The Government proposed to work with industry to improve the safe keeping and handling of air weapons. This includes seeking to ensure that home security devices such as security cords are supplied with all new air weapons, to help minimise the risk of misuse; and to ensure that dealers explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers of new air weapons in person at the point of sale, particularly in relation to access by those under 18 years of age. It should be noted that online sales of air weapons (made by way of trade or business) must still have the transfer of possession made face-to-face.
  9. There are no official statistics on fatal incidents involving air weapons. However, from open source research of internet reports conducted prior to the consultation, 25 deaths were identified as caused by air weapon shootings in Britain since 2005<sup>3</sup>. These figures included accidental deaths, suicides, and homicides. Of the 25 victims, 12 of them were under 18 years of age. In nine of the 12 incidents that resulted in the deaths of an individual under 18 years of age, it appeared that the person holding the gun was also under 18 years of age (this includes one case of a deliberately self-inflicted injury).

### **Air weapons statistics**

10. In the year to March 2021 there were 2,590 air weapon offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, which accounts for just under one third of all crimes involving firearms. The share of air weapon offences as a total of all crimes involving firearms has fallen from 57 per cent in 2002/03 to 31 per cent in 2020/21<sup>4</sup>. Almost two thirds (67%) of offences involving air weapons were criminal damage in 2015/16<sup>5</sup> (See annex A and B for data on air weapons).

<sup>3</sup> These figures exclude a small number of homicides in which the victim died after being subjected to multiple forms of violence and the air weapon injury appears unlikely to have been the cause of death.

<sup>4</sup> [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables - Office for National Statistics](#), year to March 2021, table 2.

<sup>5</sup> [Appendix Tables - focus on violent crime and sexual offences - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#), year to March 2016 (latest available data), table 3.08.

### **A.3 Groups affected**

11. Owners of air weapons will be affected, for example, those who use air weapons in competitive and informal target shooting, including those who use air pistols and air rifles in the Summer Olympics and Paralympics events.
12. Those who use air weapons in pest control (particularly in situations where the use of combustible ammunition would not be appropriate), for example in agriculture, will also be affected.
13. The proposed policies affect owners of air weapons who have children on the premises.
14. The police and the criminal justice system (CJS) may be affected as they will be required to enforce the new regulations. However, given that the changes simplify and clarify existing regulation, an increase in enforcement costs is not anticipated. Compliance levels are expected to be high given both that the regulations only require air weapons to be locked away if those under-18 years are on the premises, the cost per owner to comply is low, and the likelihood is that many air weapons owners will already comply. The ongoing cost to the police and CJS is assumed to be negligible.
15. The general public will be affected if the policy leads to an improvement in public safety.

### **A.4 Consultation**

#### **Public consultation**

##### **Firearms safety consultation**

16. The Government considered the responses to the air weapons review and published the outcome of the review and its proposals as part of the firearms safety consultation (see Annex C). The Government consulted publicly on its firearms safety proposals between 24 November 2020 and 16 February 2021. For air weapons, the following proposals were put forward:
  - Remove the exception that permits unsupervised possession of air weapons by those under 18 years of age on private land. Following the consultation responses received (see para 19) and the strong feelings held by owners of air weapons this exemption will now remain in place.
  - Clarify the offence of failing to take ‘reasonable precautions’ to prevent minors from having air weapons, so that whenever those under 18 years of age are on the premises, ‘reasonable precautions’ must include locking the air weapon out of sight when not in use and storing the ammunition separately.
  - Work with industry to improve the safe keeping and handling of air weapons, to ensure that home security devices are supplied with all new air weapons; and that dealers should explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers of new air weapons at the point of sale.
17. The majority of those responding (80%) were opposed to the proposal to remove the exception that permits the unsupervised possession of air weapons by those under 18 years of age on private land. 64 per cent agreed that the definition of “*reasonable precautions*” should be clarified in relation to secure storage of air weapons when those under 18 years of age are on the premises. Of all respondents, 72 per cent agreed that there should be work with the industry to improve the safekeeping and handling of air weapons, to ensure that home security devices are supplied with all new air weapons and that dealers should explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers at the point of sale.
18. The Government has noted that there were also strong views put forward in favour of further measures, such as the licensing of air weapons. The then National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) lead for firearms licensing was in favour of the measures proposed. Having considered these various factors, and the consultation responses, the Government considers that it is in the interests of public safety to proceed with the proposal to clarify the ‘reasonable precautions’ which must be taken to

prevent children from accessing air weapons by ensuring they must be locked out of sight with the ammunition stored separately when children are on the premises. The Government will also work with industry to improve the safe-keeping and handling of air weapons, ensuring that security devices are supplied with new weapons and that dealers explain the importance of safety to purchasers at the point of sale. Following consideration of the responses to the public consultation and the high levels of opposition, and the absence of an opportunity to legislate for this measure at the present time, the Government will not proceed with removal of the exemption which allows those aged 14-17 years to possess air weapons on private premises with consent. This will be kept under review in the event that further action is required in the future.

## **B. Rationale for intervention**

19. Following the review of the regulation of air weapons in England and Wales, and the subsequent public consultation, the Government considers that the proposed amendment to the legislation is required to strengthen public safety- particularly in relation to young persons and the safe storage of air weapons. This followed the recommendations made by the coroner regarding the death of 13-year old Benjamin Wragge, who was killed accidentally with an air weapon in 2016. As a result of this, the proposals in the consultation are focused on the possession of air weapons by those under-18 years of age, secure storage and the safekeeping of air weapons.
20. In the year ending March 2021, the police recorded one fatal injury, 25 serious injuries, and 228 slight injuries in offences involving air weapons<sup>6</sup>. In the year ending March 2020 the police recorded no fatal injuries, but 41 serious injuries and 229 slight injuries<sup>7</sup>. The proposals, as set out in the consultation will strengthen and clarify the controls for air weapons, particularly in relation to children. Taken together, there should be a benefit to society through improved public safety.

## **C. Policy objective**

21. The policy objectives are to limit the harm caused by air weapons, particularly fatal incidents involving young people, by strengthening and clarifying the regulations restricting access to air weapons by those under 18 years of age. This includes locking the air weapon out of sight when not in use and storing the ammunition separately. The Home Office will work with industry to improve the safekeeping and handling of air weapons, to ensure that home security devices are supplied with all new air weapons; and ensure that dealers explain the importance of secure handling and storage to new air weapons owners at the point of sale.

## **D. Options considered and implementation**

22. **Option 1:** Do nothing. Make no changes and continue with the current legislation on access to air weapons by those aged under 18 years of age.

**Option 2:** Clarifying the '*reasonable precautions*' that must be taken so that when children are on the premises, these precautions must include locking the air weapons away and storing the ammunition separately.

## **E. Appraisal**

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<sup>6</sup> See [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables - Office for National Statistics](#). Table 05.

<sup>7</sup> See [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables - Office for National Statistics](#). Table 05.

## Assumptions

23. The assumptions used in this impact assessment (IA) are listed below. The consultation document asked respondents to comment on the assumptions and data used in this IA, so that this analysis can be refined in the future.
- It is estimated that there are currently between 164,400 and 493,300 air weapon owners, with a central estimate of 328,900 who do not already hold a registered firearm in England and Wales and therefore do not already have lockable storage. This is calculated using the ratio of air weapon licences in Scotland to its population and multiplying this by the England and Wales population<sup>8</sup>.
  - It is assumed there will be new air weapon owners each year over the 10-year appraisal period. The number of new weapons owners is calculated by averaging the yearly sales volume of air weapons in the UK between 2009 and 2020 and multiplying this average by the population share of England and Wales as a proportion of the total UK population<sup>9</sup>. There is no data on whether these new air weapons sales are bought by those who previously owned air weapons or not. It is assumed that between 50 and 100 per cent are new air weapons owners, with a central estimate of 75 per cent. This results in estimates between 12,400 and 24,700 new air weapon owners per year, with a central estimate of 18,500<sup>10</sup>.
  - It is assumed that around 30 per cent of air weapons owners have one child or more who are under 18 years of age living in their household<sup>11</sup>.
  - There is no data on the number of air weapon owners with children under 18 years of age who already have lockable storage for their air weapons. It is assumed that between 25 and 75 per cent of air weapons owners, with a central estimate of 50 per cent, will require lockable storage.
  - It is assumed that the guidance on the new regulation is approximately 1,500 words<sup>12</sup>.
  - A reading speed of between 200 and 700 words per minute are used, with a central estimate of 400 words per minute<sup>13</sup>.
  - It is assumed that obtaining a lock costs between £4 and £21, with a central estimate of £13<sup>14</sup>.
  - It is assumed that air weapon dealers will face familiarisation costs, as in line with the new guidance, they will need to explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers of new air weapons at the point of sale. There were 3,007 registered firearms dealers (RFDs) in 2021<sup>15</sup>.
  - It is assumed that retailers will not face extra costs outside of familiarisation costs as they will already have a stock of locks to retail and the time taken to explain the new regulation will be negligible.

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<sup>8</sup> Scotland introduced legislation in 2015 required air weapon owners to require a licence for air weapons if they did not already hold one for another firearm. Scottish air weapon statistics available here: [20-1956-response.pdf \(scotland.police.uk\)](#). Population statistics: [Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#). Due to the uncertainty of this figure, a lower and upper bound of 50 and 150 per cent of this estimate are used.

<sup>9</sup> Air weapon sales figures: [UK: Sales volume of spring or air weapons 2008-2020 | Statista](#). Population statistics: [Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#).

<sup>10</sup> The lower bound starts at 50 per cent instead of a lower share given the share of new firearms certificates (and therefore new owners) per year relative to the stock of current firearm certificates. This is only used as indicative as air weapons are not licensed. Data available here: [Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates, England and Wales: April 2020 to March 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

<sup>11</sup> Office for National Statistics – “Families and Households 2017”

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2017>

<sup>12</sup> Based on length of previous guidance available at [Air weapons: a brief guide to safety - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.readingsoft.com/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.wilko.com/en-uk/home/home-security-safety/padlocks/c/440> Uses lower, median and upper quartile and also includes shipping. Rounded to the nearest £1.

<sup>15</sup> [Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates, England and Wales: April 2020 to March 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), accompanying data tables, table 6.

- It is assumed that each force has between two and eight firearms licensing officers, with a central estimate of five<sup>16</sup>. There are 43 forces. This results in a range of 86 to 344 firearms licensing officers, with a central estimate of 215.
- Costs are rounded to the nearest £100 and individuals are rounded to the nearest 100 unless otherwise stated.
- In line with HM Treasury Green Book<sup>17</sup> (2022) guidance, a 10-year appraisal period, a discount rate of 3.5 per cent and, a price base year and present value base year of 2021/22, are used.

## Option 2

### COSTS

#### Set-up costs for current owners of air weapons

##### Lockable storage costs

24. There will be set-up costs to air weapons owners who will need to purchase a padlock (or equivalent) in order to lock their air weapon away. This cost would only apply to those owners who do not already lock away their air weapon, and who hold their air weapon at a premises where those under 18 years of age are present.
25. It is estimated that there are currently between 164,400 and 493,300 air weapon owners, with a central estimate of 328,900 who do not already hold a registered firearm in England and Wales and therefore do not already have lockable storage. This is calculated using the ratio of air weapon licences in Scotland to its population and multiplying this by the England and Wales population<sup>18</sup>.
26. Data from the Office for National Statistics suggest that around 30 per cent of households have dependent children. Some households without dependent children may also be affected, for example, grandparents who have grandchildren visit their house, but they have not been quantified due to a lack of data.
27. It is likely that many owners in households with children will already lock their air weapons away - perhaps because they will interpret the duty to take “*reasonable precautions*” as meaning that the weapon should be locked away, or because they have followed the Government’s advice to do so<sup>19</sup>. Many others will already have facilities to lock their weapons away, such as lockable cupboards, chests and/or loft spaces, and would not need to purchase a new lock as a result of this proposal.
28. It is assumed that between 25 and 75 per cent of current air weapon owners with children under 18 years of age will already have lockable storage. This means that between 12,300 and 111,000 owners with children under 18 years of age will need lockable storage, with a central estimate of 49,300.
29. The typical price of locks for wardrobes or cupboards is between £4 and £21, with a central estimate of £13. Multiplying these prices by the number of owners requiring lockable storage leads to an estimated cost in a range of **£0.05 to £2.29 million**, with a central estimate of **£0.66 million** (2021/22 prices) in year 1 only.

#### Familiarisation costs

##### Air weapon owners

<sup>16</sup> Estimates provided by the police to the Home Office.

<sup>17</sup> [The Green Book \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>18</sup> Scotland introduced legislation in 2015 required air weapon owners to require a licence for air weapons if they did not already hold one for another firearm. Scottish air weapon statistics available here: [20-1956-response.pdf \(scotland.police.uk\)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/20-1956-response.pdf). Population statistics:

<sup>19</sup> “*Air weapons: a brief guide to safety*” (2017): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-weapons-a-brief-guide-to-safetyjan-2011>

30. There will be a cost to owners of air weapons to familiarise themselves with guidance on the new regulations. It is assumed that the new guidance consists of between 1,400 and 1,600 words with a central estimate of 1,500, and individuals read at a range of reading speeds of 200 words per minute to 700 words per minute, with a central estimate of 400<sup>20</sup>. A range of reading comprehension between 50 to 80 per cent, with a central 60 per cent is also used. This results in a range of 2 minutes to 12 minutes, with central estimate of 6 minutes<sup>21</sup> for familiarisation reading times. Multiplying the average hourly value of leisure time of £5.05<sup>22</sup> by the estimated number of air weapons owners (12,300 to 111,000, with a central estimate of 49,300) results in familiarisation cost to air weapons owners in the range of **£2,400 to £107,400**, with a central estimate of **£24,900** (2021/22 prices) in year 1 only (see Table 1).

**Table 1, Familiarisation costs to air weapon owners, year 1 only, vol, £, 2021/22 prices, 2022.**

Estimate	Number of owners	Number of words to be read	Reading speed (wpm)	Average time familiarisation (hours)	Hourly cost (£)	Total cost (£)
Low	12,300	1,400	700	0.04	5.05	2,400
Central	49,300	1,500	400	0.10	5.05	24,900
High	111,000	1,600	200	0.19	5.05	107,400

Source: see footnote 10,11, 12, 13, 14, and 23. Assumptions: Readingsoft.com. Owners rounded nearest 100. Total cost rounded to nearest £100. Note: wpm = words per minute.

### Air weapon dealers

31. It is assumed that air weapon dealers will read the new guidance to inform purchasers of the importance of secure handling and storage of new air weapons at the point of sale. Multiplying the hourly wage for sales related occupations (n.e.c.) of £13.83<sup>23</sup> by the range of average reading times and the number of air weapons dealers (3,007) results in familiarisation cost to air weapons dealers in the range of **£1,600 to £8,000**, with a central estimate of **£4,200**<sup>24</sup> (2021/22 prices) in year 1 only (see Table 2).

**Table 2, Familiarisation costs to air weapon dealers, year 1 only, vol, £, 2021/22 prices, 2022.**

Estimate	Number of dealers	Number of words to be read	Reading speed (wpm)	Average time familiarisation (hours)	Hourly cost (£)	Total cost (£)
Low	3,007	1,400	700	0.04	13.83	1,600
Central	3,007	1,500	400	0.10	13.83	4,200
High	3,007	1,600	200	0.19	13.83	8,000

Source: See footnote 13 and 26. Assumptions: Readingsoft.com.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.readingsoft.com/>. A range of reading speeds relating to poor, good and very good readers are provided.

<sup>21</sup> Rounded to the nearest minute. It is assumed they do not re-read it if comprehension is between 80% to 85% as they understand it.

<sup>22</sup> Values of time (Department for Transport) TAG Data Book – Table A 1.3.2 – Forecast values of time per person in 2022 prices. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tag-data-book>

<sup>23</sup> [Earnings and hours worked, occupation by four-digit SOC: ASHE Table 14.5a - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employment-and-hours-worked) 2020 SOC code: 7129. This is used as a proxy for air weapon dealers. Updated to 2021/22 prices and updated further by 21.8 per cent to include non-wage share of labour cost for the UK. See Eurostat (2019):

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lc\\_lci\\_lev/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lc_lci_lev/default/table?lang=en) Calculation is 0.179/0.821 = 21.8%.

<sup>24</sup> Rounded to the nearest £1.

## Police

32. It is assumed that firearms licensing officers will need to read the new guidance to enforce the regulations. Multiplying the average hourly wage for the modelled police officer (£49<sup>25</sup>) by the range of average reading times and the estimated number of firearms licensing officers (86 to 344, with a central estimate of 215) results in familiarisation cost to the police in the range of **£200 to £3,200**, with a central estimate of **£1,100** (2021/22 prices) in year 1 only (see Table 3).

**Table 3, Familiarisation costs to the police, year 1 only, vol, £, 2021/22 prices, 2022.**

Estimate	Number of firearms licensing officers	Number of words to be read	Reading speed (wpm)	Average time familiarisation (hours)	Hourly cost (£)	Total cost (£)
Low	86	1,400	700	0.04	49.03	200
Central	215	1,500	400	0.10	49.03	1,100
High	344	1,600	200	0.19	49.03	3,200

Source: See footnote 30. Assumptions: Readingsoft.com.

33. The total estimated transition cost is estimated to be between **£0.06 million and £2.41 million**, with a central estimate of **£0.69 million** (2021/22 prices) in year 1 only.

## Ongoing costs

### Annual set-up costs for new air weapons owners

34. It is assumed there will be new air weapon owners each year over the 10-year appraisal period. The number of new weapons owners is calculated by averaging the yearly sales volume of air weapons in the UK between 2009 and 2020 and multiplying this average by the population share of England and Wales as a proportion of the total UK population<sup>26</sup>. There is no data on whether these new air weapons sales are bought by those who previously owned air weapons or not. It is assumed that between 50 and 100 per cent are new air weapons owners, with a central estimate of 75 per cent. This results in estimates between 12,400 and 24,700 new air weapon owners per year, with a central estimate of 18,500.
35. It is assumed that around 30 per cent of air weapons owners have one child or more who are under 18 years of age living in their household.<sup>27</sup>
36. There is no data on the number of air weapon owners with children under 18 years of age who already have lockable storage for their air weapons. It is assumed that between 25 and 75 per cent of air weapons owners, with a central estimate of 50 per cent will require lockable storage. This results in a range of 900 to 5,500 new air weapon owners per year requiring locks, with a central estimate of 2,800.
37. Assuming that the average price of a lock is between £4 and £21, with a central estimate of £13, the annual set-up cost to new air weapons owners is estimated at between £3,900 and £114,600, with a central estimate of £37,700 (2021/22 prices) per year. This results in an estimated cost to new

<sup>25</sup> Home Office internal estimates on police hourly costs. Hourly cost for Sergeant and below, includes salary, expenses, regional allowance, training and employer contributions to pension and national insurance. The estimates were calculated using the Annualised Survey of Hours Earnings (ASHE), Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) Police Actuals and The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Mutual Aid Rates. Estimates use the latest figures available for the various inputs. Rounded to nearest £1 and in 2021/22 prices. Uprated further by 21.8 per cent to include non-wage share of labour cost for the UK. See Eurostat (2019): [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lc\\_lci\\_lev/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lc_lci_lev/default/table?lang=en) Calculation is  $0.179/0.821 = 21.8$  per cent.

<sup>26</sup> Air weapon sales figures: UK: Sales volume of spring or air weapons 2008-2020 | Statista. Population statistics: Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics ([ons.gov.uk](https://ons.gov.uk)).

<sup>27</sup> Office for National Statistics – “Families and Households 2017”

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2017>

weapon owners from lockable storage of between **£0.03 and £0.99 million**, with a central estimate of **£0.32 million (PV)** over 10 years.

38. There will be a cost to new owners of air weapons to familiarise themselves with guidance on the new regulations. Multiplying the average hourly value of leisure time of £5.05<sup>28</sup> by the estimated number of air weapons owners (900 to 5,500, with a central estimate of 2,700) and the range of familiarisation times results in a familiarisation cost to new air weapons owners in the range of £200 to £5,400, with a central estimate of £1,400 (2021/22 prices) per year. This results in an estimated familiarisation cost to new weapon owners of between **£1,500 and £46,300**, with a central estimate of **£12,100 (PV)** over 10 years (see Table 4).

**Table 4, Familiarisation costs to air weapon owners, year 1 only, vol, £, 2021/22 prices, 2022.**

Estimate	Number of owners	Number of words to be read	Reading speed (wpm)	Average time familiarisation (hours)	Hourly cost (£)	Total cost (£)
Low	900	1,400	700	0.04	5.05	200
Central	2,800	1,500	400	0.10	5.05	1,400
High	5,600	1,600	200	0.19	5.05	5,400

Source: see footnote 10,11, 12, 13, 14, and 23. Assumptions: Readingsoft.com. Owners rounded nearest 100. Total cost rounded to nearest £100. Note: wpm = words per minute.

#### **Total ongoing costs**

39. Total ongoing costs are estimated in a range of **£0.04 to £1.03 million (PV)**, with a central estimate of **£0.33 million (PV)** over 10 years.

#### **Total costs**

40. Total costs are estimated to be in a range of **£0.09 million to £3.44 million**, with a central estimate of **£1.02 million (PV)** over 10 years.

#### **Non-monetised costs**

##### **Cost to the Home Office of working with industry to improve security**

41. The Home Office will be undertaking work with industry to improve the safe keeping and handling of air weapons. This includes seeking to ensure that home security devices such as security cords are supplied with all new air weapons, to help minimise the risk of misuse. There will also be work with the industry to ensure that dealers explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers of new air weapons in person at the point of sale, particularly in relation to access by those under 18 years of age.
42. It is assumed that the cost to the Home Office of these activities is negligible, as they will be subsumed within existing work. The cost to business of improving security measures has not been quantified, as it is a voluntary initiative.

#### **The police**

43. The police may experience some costs from enforcing the new regulations. However, given that the changes simplify and clarify existing regulation, an increase in enforcement costs is not anticipated. Additionally, compliance levels are expected to be high, given that; the regulations only require air weapons to be locked away if individuals under-18 years of age are on the premises; the cost per

<sup>28</sup> Values of time (Department for Transport) TAG Data Book – Table A 1.3.2 – Forecast values of time per person in 2022 prices. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tag-data-book>

owner to comply is relatively low; and it is likely that many air weapons owners will already comply. The cost to the police is assumed to be negligible.

## CJS

44. The CJS may experience some costs due to these new regulations. Given that the compliance levels are expected to be high as stated above, the cost to the CJS is assumed to be negligible.

## BENEFITS

### Society

45. The proposals will strengthen and clarify the requirement that owners of air weapons must take precautions to prevent children accessing air weapons. Taken together, there should be a benefit to society through improved public safety by reducing the kind of high risk behaviour amongst unsupervised young people that has led to the tragic incidents (including harm and deaths) from the misuse of air weapons by those under the age of 18 years.
46. This benefit cannot be robustly estimated due to a lack of evidence on how many firearms-related injuries or fatalities are likely to be avoided following the changes. Breakeven analysis has been undertaken to illustrate the magnitude of benefits required in order for this policy to have a positive Net Present Social Value (NPSV).
47. The estimated cost to society of a firearms homicide is **£3.7 million** and the cost of violence with injury is estimated at **£16,200** (2021/22 prices<sup>29</sup>). Given the total costs of the policy over the 10 year appraisal period, either **one homicide** or between **6 and 213 violence with injuries**, with a central estimate of **64**, need to be prevented over the 10-year appraisal period for this policy to have a positive NPSV.

### NPSV, BNPV, EANDCB

48. Net Present Social Value (NPSV) is equal to the total discounted benefits minus total discounted costs. Business Net Present Value (BNPV) is equal to the total discounted benefits to business minus the total discounted costs to business.
49. The NPSV of the policy lies in a range between **-£0.09 million and -£3.44 million (PV)**, with a central estimate of **-£1.02 million (PV)** over 10 years.
50. There are costs to businesses through the familiarisation costs faced by air weapon dealers. This results in an estimated Business Net Present Value (BNPV) between **-£1,600 and -£8,000 (PV)**, with a central estimate of **-£4,200<sup>30</sup> (PV)** over 10 years.
51. The net direct cost to business per year (EANDCB) is estimated to be between **£200 and £900**, with a central estimate of **£500<sup>31</sup>**.
52. No benefits have been monetised, as it is difficult to estimate how many crimes will be prevented by the introduction of the above measures. Breakeven analysis has been undertaken to demonstrate the magnitude of benefits required in order to outweigh the net costs of the policy (see end of 'Benefits' section).

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<sup>29</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/732110/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime-horr99.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732110/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime-horr99.pdf) - Figures all in 2015/16 prices so updated to 21/22 prices.

<sup>30</sup> Rounded to the nearest £1.

<sup>31</sup> Rounded to the nearest £1. EANDCB stands for equivalent annual net direct cost to business.

**Table 5, Summary of costs, benefits, NPSV, BNPV, EANDCB, 10 years (£ million PV) 2022).**

<b>Costs</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Set-up costs</b>			
Storage costs	0.05	0.66	2.29
Familiarisation costs	0.00	0.03	0.12
<b>Total set-up costs</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>2.41</b>
<b>Ongoing costs</b>			
New air weapon owners	0.04	0.33	1.03
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>3.44</b>
<b>Total benefits</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>NPSV</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>-1.02</b>	<b>-3.44</b>
<b>BNPV</b>	<b>-0.00</b>	<b>-0.00</b>	<b>-0.01</b>
<b>EANDCB</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Note: Home Office analysis, 2021/22.

### **Value for money (VfM)**

53. The policy objective is to limit the harm caused by air weapons, particularly fatal incidents involving young people. **Option 2** seeks to do this by strengthening and clarifying the regulations restricting access to air weapons by those under 18 years of age. This includes locking the air weapon out of sight when not in use and storing the ammunition separately. The Home Office will work with industry to improve the safekeeping and handling of air weapons, to ensure that home security devices are supplied with all new air weapons; and ensure that dealers explain the importance of secure handling and storage to new air weapons owners at the point of sale. It is likely that these measures will achieve the policy objective, because restricting access to air weapons by individuals under 18 years of age is likely to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities caused by air weapons with those under 18 years of age. This means that **Option 2** is likely to meet the strategic objectives of reducing crime and increasing public safety. If these objectives are achieved then this would mean value for money for the taxpayer.

### **Impact on small and micro-businesses**

54. It is expected that there will be a familiarisation cost to air weapons dealers with the new regulations. Other costs are not expected as firearms dealers already need to stock similar locks, and will already provide advice on an ongoing basis as part of their day to day responsibilities. There will not be an extra cost to businesses for any additional time taken to explain the new regulations.
55. A large proportion of the 3,007 RFDs<sup>32</sup> in England and Wales are small and micro-businesses<sup>33</sup>. The Gun Trade Association<sup>34</sup> estimates that 86 per cent of RFDs have under 4 employees, 11 per cent have 4-10 employees and 3 per cent have 11+ employees. Therefore, between 97 to 100 per cent of RFDs are small and micro-businesses, with a central estimate of 98.5 per cent. This implies that

<sup>32</sup> Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates, England and Wales: April 2020 to March 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

<sup>33</sup> Defined as having between 0 and 49 employees.

<sup>34</sup> [The Firearms \(Amendment\) Rules 2019 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) paragraph 51.

the cost of this policy to small and micro-businesses lies in a range of **£1,300 to £5,500**, with a central estimate of **£2,600** (2021/22 prices) in year 1 only.

## F. Proportionality.

56. This IA has identified the main costs and benefits that are likely to result from the policy options. These have been quantified where data is available, and breakeven analysis has been applied where there is a lack of data. The analysis is proportionate to the policy.

## G. Risks.

57. There is no data on the number of households which do not currently have lockable storage available for their air weapons. It is assumed that a range of 50 to 100 per cent, with central estimate of 75 per cent, require lockable storage, which is highly uncertain. If the actual number of households is much lower or higher than the figure which has been estimated, this will have a large impact on the cost of the policy to air weapons owners.
58. There is no data on whether the new air weapons sales are bought by those who previously owned air weapons or not. It is assumed that a range of 50 to 100 per cent, with central estimate of 75 per cent, are new owners. The estimates of between 12,400 and 24,700 new air weapon owners per year, with a central estimate of 18,500, are uncertain. After accounting for 30 per cent of these owners having children under 18 years of age and 50 per cent (in the central estimate) needing lockable storage, this leads to a central estimate of 2,800 new owners requiring lockable storage. If the actual number is much lower or higher than the figure which has been estimated, this will have a large impact on the cost of the policy to air weapons owners.
59. It is estimated that there are currently between 164,400 and 493,300 air weapon owners, with a central estimate of 328,900 who do not already hold a registered firearm in England and Wales and therefore do not already have lockable storage. This is calculated using the ratio of air weapon licences in Scotland to its population and multiplying this by the England and Wales population<sup>35</sup>. If the ratio of air weapon licences in Scotland to its population is different to that in the England and Wales then this may impact the cost to air weapons owners.

## H. Direct costs and benefits to business calculations

60. The net direct cost to business per year (EANDCB)<sup>36</sup> is estimated to be between **£200 and £600**, with a central estimate of **£300**<sup>37</sup>.

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<sup>35</sup> Scotland introduced legislation in 2015 required air weapon owners to require a licence for air weapons if they did not already hold one for another firearm. Scottish air weapon statistics available here: [20-1956-response.pdf \(scotland.police.uk\)](#). Population statistics: [Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#). Due to the uncertainty of this figure, a lower and upper bound of 50 and 150 per cent of this estimate are used.

<sup>36</sup> This is defined as the Equivalent Annual Net Direct Cost to Business (EANDCB) as is used by the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) to measure the administrative cost (direct cost) to business.

<sup>37</sup> Rounded to the nearest £1.

## **I. Wider impacts**

61. There are no significant wider impacts from this policy.

## **J. Trade Impact.**

62. This policy proposal will have no impact on trade or investment.

## **K. Monitoring and evaluation**

63. This is a Final stage IA. The measure set out above clarifying the 'reasonable precautions' provision and requiring air weapons to be locked away when individuals under 18 years of age are on the premises will require secondary legislation. Work with industry about the security and safe-keeping of air weapons will be taken forward during 2022. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the changes, through liaison with police and other representatives, will take place after completion of this work. There will also be assessment of the levels of serious incidents with air weapons involving those under 18 years of age to assist with the evaluation. A reduction in serious incidents and accidents involving children may indicate that the measures have had a positive effect. In addition, statistics about air weapons offences and prosecutions involving individuals under 18 years of age, and offences and prosecutions in relation to adults failing to take reasonable precautions to keep air weapons away from children, will also assist with the evaluation of whether the measures to reduce the misuse of air weapons have had an impact. Liaison with industry representatives over the level of engagement by firearms dealers with the initiative to provide security devices and communicate safety requirements to buyers at the point of sale will also be a measure of the success of the new policy. Because it will take time for the changes to embed and take effect the evaluation is likely to take place during 2023/24.

## L. Annexes.

### Impact Assessment Checklist

<b>Mandatory specific impact test - Statutory Equalities Duties</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<p><b>Statutory Equalities Duties</b></p> <p>The public sector equality duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in the course of developing policies and delivering services. [<a href="#">Equality Duty Toolkit</a>]</p> <p>The Home Office does not consider there are any significant PSED implications arising from the proposals in this revised IA. The consultation asked for views on the impact of the Government’s proposals on protected characteristics to assess this more accurately. The majority of those licensed to possess firearms are male, and similar demographics may apply to air weapon owners, and the measures are focused on reducing harm, particularly in relation to children. While the impact may apply primarily to males and to young people, the benefits will also fall disproportionately to them. However, it is also likely that the benefits will accrue disproportionately to this group.</p> <p><b>The SRO has agreed these summary findings from the Equality Impact Assessment.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

### Economic Impact Tests

<p><b>Small and Micro-business Assessment (SaMBA)</b></p> <p>The SaMBA is a Better Regulation requirement intended to ensure that all new regulatory proposals are designed and implemented so as to mitigate disproportionate burdens. The SaMBA must be applied to all domestic measures that regulate business and civil society organisations unless they qualify for the fast track. [<a href="#">Better Regulation Framework Manual</a>] or [Check with the Home Office Better Regulation Unit]</p> <p>See <b>section E: Appraisal</b> for details</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
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**Annex A: Number of offences recorded by the police in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon, 2002/03 to 2020/21.**

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Air weapons</b>	<b>All firearms</b>	<b>Proportion where air weapons were principle weapons (%)</b>	<b>Change since previous year (air weapons) (%)</b>
2002/03	13,822	24,070	57	-
2003/04	13,756	24,094	57	-0.5
2004/05	11,824	22,893	52	-14.0
2005/06	10,438	21,526	48	-11.7
2006/07	8,836	18,481	48	-15.3
2007/08	7,478	17,343	43	-15.4
2008/09	6,041	14,240	42	-19.2
2009/10	4,931	13,013	38	-18.4
2010/11	4,295	11,335	38	-12.9
2011/12	3,510	9,532	37	-18.3
2012/13	2,977	8,135	37	-15.2
2013/14	2,873	7,729	37	-3.5
2014/15	2,956	7,867	38	2.9
2015/16	3,217	8,399	38	8.8
2016/17	3,203	9,578	33	-0.4
2017/18	2,861	9,395	30	-10.7
2018/19	3,122	10,005	31	9.1
2019/20	2,784	9,406	30	-10.8
2020/21	2,590	8,299	31	-7.0

Source: ONS [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#) - Office for National Statistics data tables, table 2.

Notes: 1. These data are police recorded crime data and are not designated as National Statistics. 2. More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons. 3. Further weapon breakdowns were available for the first time on 1 April 2004.

**Annex B: Number of offences recorded by the police in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon, 2002/03-2015/16.**

Year: 20xx/yy	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Violence against the person of which:	2,895	3,079	1,678	1,336	1,187	1,051	829	760	556	429	425	400	368	363
Homicide	1	-	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Attempted murder and other most serious violence	144	138	168	133	123	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Attempted murder and GBH with intent offences	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	123	67	55	..	..	..	..
Attempted murder, assault with intent to cause serious harm and endangering life	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71	71	73	73
Other	2,750	2,941	1,509	1,202	1,061	947	726	636	488	374	354	327	295	290
Robbery	146	85	68	67	73	75	39	56	50	34	34	26	25	23
Burglary	23	27	12	12	15	8	10	10	8	12	5	2	4	3
Criminal damage	10,496	10,373	9,308	8,165	6,900	5,724	4,630	3,646	3,197	2,669	2,091	2,109	2,193	2,162
Public fear, alarm, or distress	..	..	57	68	65	47	44	47	53	27	17	21	17	19
Possession of weapons	..	..	297	356	310	273	263	183	166	128	100	94	111	81
Other firearm offences	262	192	404	434	286	300	226	229	265	211	305	221	236	566
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,822</b>	<b>13,756</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>10,438</b>	<b>8,836</b>	<b>7,478</b>	<b>6,041</b>	<b>4,931</b>	<b>4,295</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>2,873</b>	<b>2,954</b>	<b>3,217</b>

Source: Appendix Tables - focus on violent crime and sexual offences - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk), Table 3.08. Notes: 1) The data capture the principal weapon used. Year runs from start of April to end of March. 2) One homicide was recorded in 2010/11 although the injury statistics in the other table do not show a fatal injury in this year. This is because crossbows are included here in the definition of air weapons but not in the injury statistics. 3). .. denotes no data is recorded.

## **ANNEX C: FIREARMS SAFETY CONSULTATION: FINDINGS**

### **List of organisations that responded to the consultation**

- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums)
- British Shooting Sports Council
- Cats Protection
- Deactivated Weapons Association
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Essex Police
- Family members of the victims of air weapons shootings and their MPs
- Fifty Calibre Shooters Association
- Gun Control Network
- Gun Trade Association
- Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association
- Metropolitan Police, Wildlife Crime Unit
- NABIS (National Ballistics Intelligence Service)
- National Farmers' Union
- National Rifle Association
- National Small-bore Rifle Association
- Northamptonshire Police
- NPCC lead on the Criminal Use of Firearms
- NPCC lead on Firearms Licensing
- RSPCA
- Scottish Association for Country Sports
- Showmen's Guild of Great Britain
- Society of Independent Roundabout Proprietors
- Vintage Arms, Scotland

The remaining responses were from individuals or from respondents who provided no identifying information.

## AIR WEAPONS

**To what extent do you agree that the Government should remove the exception that permits unsupervised possession of air weapons by under 18s on private land?**

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly agree	854	7
Agree	894	7
Neither agree nor	725	6
Disagree	1,699	13
Strongly disagree	8,468	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,640</b>	<b>100</b>

Eighty per cent of respondents who answered this question disagreed or strongly disagreed that the exception permitting unsupervised possession of air weapons by individuals under 18 years of age on private land should be removed. Similarly, 82 per cent of respondents categorised as members of the public disagreed or strongly disagreed with this measure.

Also, 14 per cent of respondents who answered this question agreed or strongly agreed that this exception should be removed.

**To what extent do you agree that the Government should clarify the offence of failing to take 'reasonable precautions' to prevent minors from having air weapons so that whenever under-18s are on the premises, 'reasonable precautions' must include locking the air weapon out of sight when not in use and storing the ammunition separately?**

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly agree	4,933	39
Agree	3,147	25
Neither agree nor	1,050	8
Disagree	1,160	9
Strongly disagree	2,346	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,636</b>	<b>100</b>

Almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of respondents who answered this question agreed or strongly agreed that the Government should clarify that 'reasonable precautions' must include locking air weapons out of sight and storing ammunition separately. This was slightly higher (69 per cent) among respondents categorised as Shooting Organisations.

28 per cent of respondents who answered this question disagreed or strongly disagreed that this clarification should be made.

**To what extent do you agree that the Government should work with industry to improve the safe keeping and handling of air weapons, to ensure that home security devices are supplied with all new air weapons; and that dealers should explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers of new air weapons at the point of sale?**

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly agree	1,859	15
Agree	7,193	57
Neither agree nor	1,273	10
Disagree	884	7
Strongly disagree	1,425	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,634</b>	<b>100</b>

Almost three-quarters (72 per cent) of respondents who answered this question agreed or strongly agreed that the Government should work with the industry to improve the measures outlined in question 8. Similarly, 77 per cent of respondents categorised as shooting organisations agreed or strongly agreed with this question. There was a lower percentage (65 per cent) for respondents categorised as firearms dealers.

Eighteen per cent of respondents who answered this question disagreed or strongly disagreed with this approach.