



**Home Office**

**16th August 2012**



**Statistical News Release**

**Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales 2011/12**

The latest National Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates in England and Wales are released today. The figures show that there were similar numbers of firearm and shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2012 compared with the end of March 2011. There were 141,820 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2012 a 0.3 per cent increase compared with a year earlier, and 562,696 shotgun certificates, a 0.3 per cent decrease over the same period.

The number of firearms covered by such certificates (477,888 firearms) also increased and is the highest number since these figures were first collected in 1995.

There were 11,502 new firearm certificates granted in 2011/12, an increase of two per cent from 2010/11. There were 31,254 new shotgun certificates granted during 2011/12, an eight per cent increase compared with 2010/11.

A total of 349 firearm certificates were revoked in 2011/12, a fall of 14% since 2010/11 and the first decrease since 2005/06. The number of shotgun certificates revoked fell by six per cent, from 1,379 in 2010/11 to 1,301 in 2011/12.

There were 3,417 registered firearm dealers on 31 March 2012, an increase of seven per cent compared with the figure of 3,205 last year, and the highest figure since records began in 1995. The number of firearm dealers has risen sharply in recent years (up 68% since 2005/06) partly due to the requirement for businesses that sell air weapons to be registered as dealers (in line with the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006).

During 2011/12 there were 3,399 people covered by firearm visitors' permits and 8,075 people covered by shotgun visitors' permits. Both of these figures are the highest numbers since the series began.

The Statistical Bulletin, 'Firearm and Shotgun Certificates England and Wales 2011/12' also contains statistics at police force area level on numbers of firearm and shotgun certificates on issue under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997.

**Notes to editors**

'Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales 2011/12' is available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the 'Science, research and statistics' section of the Home Office website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1012/>

The latest statistics on recorded offences involving the use of a firearm are published separately in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0212/>