



Home Office

Home Office Statistical Bulletin



Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2010/11

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ISSN 1759-7005

ISBN 978 1 84987 687 2

22 March 2012

HOSB: 05/12

Acknowledgements

This bulletin has been prepared by staff in the Crime Statistics Programme, which is part of the Home Office Statistics Unit of Home Office Science.

The author would like to thank Simon Dicketts of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the National Firearms Licensing Managers in the police forces of England and Wales. The author is also grateful for the support and assistance received from Kevin Smith, Paul Taylor, Rachel Murphy and John Flatley.

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Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2010/11

SUMMARY

- There were 141,347 firearm certificates on issue on 31 March 2011, a slight fall of 0.3 per cent compared with 141,775 on issue at the end of March 2010.
- While the number of firearm certificates on issue fell in the last year, the number of firearms covered by such certificates (464,839 firearms) increased and is the highest number since these figures were first collected in 1995.
- There were 564,269 shotgun certificates on issue on 31 March 2011, a fall of three per cent from the 580,653 on issue at the end of March 2010.
- Around one per cent of new applications for firearm certificates and two per cent of new applications for shotgun certificates were refused in 2010/11, similar to the level in 2009/10.
- A total of 404 firearm certificates were revoked in 2010/11, compared with 302 in 2009/10 and 260 in 2008/09. This is the highest number since the series began in 1992.
- There were 3,205 registered firearm dealers on 31 March 2011, compared with 3,182 last year, a small increase of less than one per cent.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on the issue of firearm and shotgun certificates under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997. It covers certificates issued by police forces in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, as well as historical trend data. Information on the number of firearm dealers is also provided.

Further details of the legislation covering the licensing of firearms are given in the notes at the end of this report.

Data for this bulletin are taken from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS). The NFLMS is a register of all persons who have applied for, or have been granted, a certificate to possess or acquire a firearm or shotgun. It is a web-based national register of all firearm certificate holders. The NFLMS updates the Police National Computer with details of individuals who own firearms and/or shotguns and records details of anyone who has been refused a certificate or had one revoked. In addition, the NFLMS maintains information on people, companies and dealers that have requested firearms and/or shotgun certificates. It also holds information on weapons and their history. The NFLMS is used by all police forces in England and Wales.

Due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the NFLMS during 2006, robust data relating to 2006/07 and numbers of weapons and persons covered by certificates for 2007/08 are not available.

Statistics on crimes involving the use of a firearm during 2010/11 are published separately in [Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence](#) (Smith et al., 2012).

2. FIREARM CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 8)

Number of certificates on issue

There were 141,347 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2011, a slight fall of 0.3 per cent compared with the 141,775 on issue at the end of March 2010. This follows a rise of two per cent between 2008/09 and 2009/10 and is the first fall since 2002 (Table 1). The number of firearm certificates on issue generally declined between the introduction of the Firearms Act in 1968 and 2002. Since then, there has been an upward trend before the slight fall this year. The number of firearm certificates on issue in 2010/11 is 20 per cent higher than in 2002.

While the number of firearm certificates on issue fell in the last year, the number of firearms covered by such certificates¹ (464,839 firearms) increased and is the highest number since these figures were first collected in 1995.

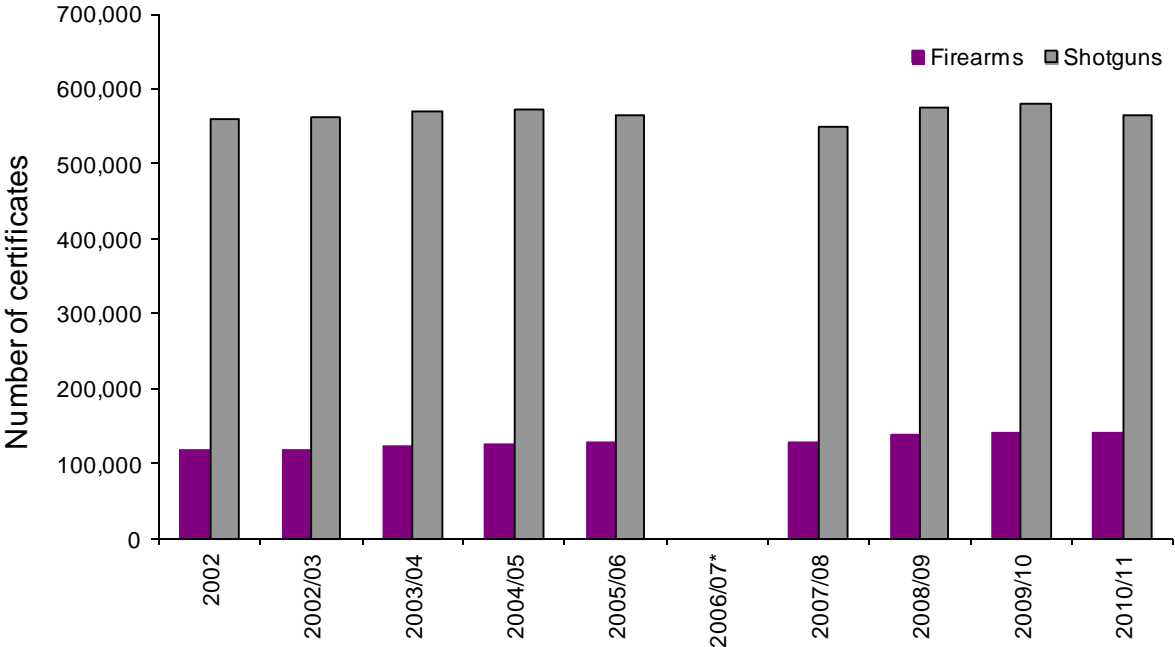
The number of weapons covered by certificates on issue decreased from a high of 418,300 in 1996 to 295,000 in 1998 and corresponded with the tightening of gun control through the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 prompted by the Dunblane massacre. Since 1998, the number of weapons covered by certificates has increased by an average of 13,000 per year.

¹ This figure includes those actually possessed and those authorised for possession but not yet acquired.

The rise in the number of weapons since 1998 is largely explained by an increase in the average number of weapons covered by each firearms certificate. The average number of firearms per certificate on 31 March 2011 was 3.3 (Table 1). This number is slightly higher than the 3.2 firearms per certificate reported in 2009/10 and the highest since figures were first collected in 1995. The number of weapons per certificate has gradually been increasing from 2.2 in 1999 to the figure of 3.3 reported this year.

Details for applications, renewal, variation and revocations, as well as certificates and firearms held for each police force area in 2010/11 are given in Table 2.

Figure 1 Firearm and shotgun certificates on issue, 2002 to 2010/11



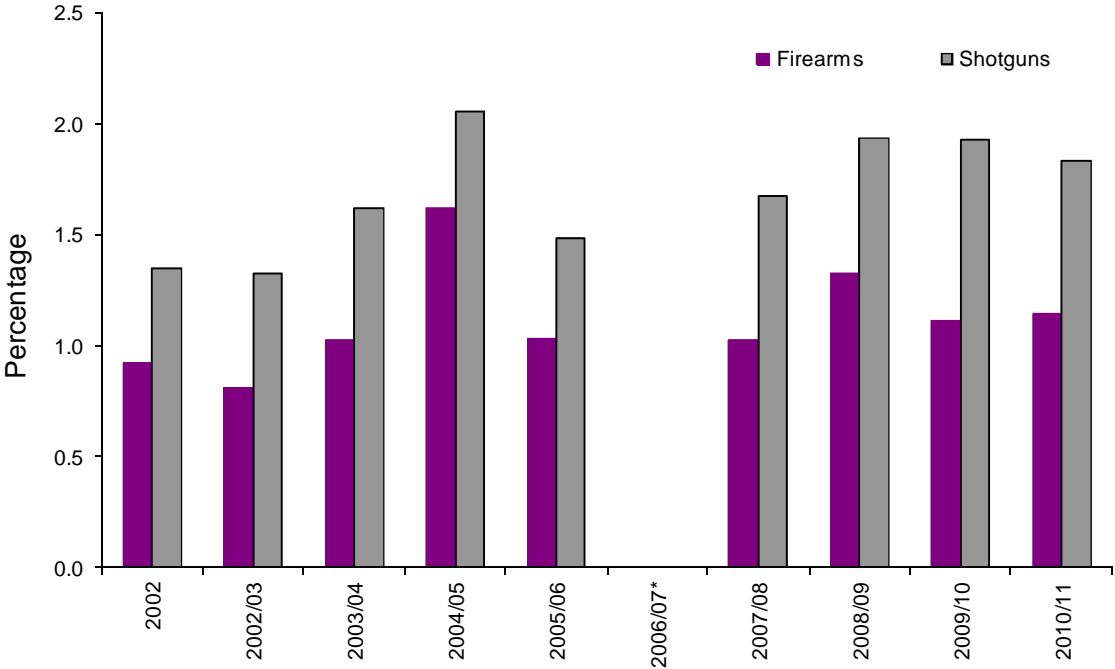
*2006/07 data are not available (see Introduction)

New applications and renewals

There were 11,286 new firearm certificates granted in 2010/11, a 19 per cent increase from the 9,462 certificates granted during 2009/10. The increase this year follows an 18 per cent fall between 2007/08 and 2009/10 (Table 1).

In 2010/11, around one per cent of new applications for firearm certificates were refused, similar to the level seen in previous years. Figure 2 shows the percentage of new firearm and shotgun certificate applications that were refused between 2002 and 2010/11, excluding 2006/07.

Figure 2 Percentage of new applications for firearm and shotgun certificates refused, 2002 to 2010/11



*2006/07 data are not available (see Introduction)

On 1 January 1995, the renewal cycle for firearm certificates changed from three to five years.² Therefore it is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes for renewals. There were 34,132 renewal applications granted in 2010/11.

Revocations of certificates

Firearm certificates can be revoked if the Chief Police Officer is satisfied that the holder can no longer be entrusted with firearms. In 2010/11, a total of 404 firearm certificates were revoked (Table 2), compared with 302 in 2009/10 and 260 in 2008/09 (Table 5). This is the highest number since the series began in 1992.

² An individual who was issued a firearm certificate in 1994 would have needed to have renewed three years later, in 1997. For certificates issues in 1995, the renewal would not be due until the year 2000.

3. SHOTGUN CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 6 and 8)

Number of certificates on issue

There were 564,269 shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2011, a three per cent reduction compared with 580,653 at the end of March 2010. The number of shotgun certificates on issue peaked in 1988 (at 882,000) before falling to 559,000 in 2002. Since this year, the trend in the number of shotgun certificates held has been relatively flat. The number of certificates on issue this year is around a third lower (36%) than the 1988 peak (Table 3).

Shotgun certificates in force at the end of March 2011 covered 1,336,701 shotguns, a decrease of two per cent from the 1,358,522 on issue at the end of March 2010.

The average number of shotguns per certificate in 2010/11 was 2.4, compared with the 2.3 shotguns per certificate in 2009/10. The average number of shotguns per certificate has been relatively steady over the last ten years (Table 3).

Details for applications, renewal, variation and revocations, as well as certificates and shotguns held for each police force are given in Table 4.

New applications, renewals and revocations

There were 29,068 new shotgun certificates granted during 2010/11, a 21 per cent increase compared with 2009/10 when 23,950 shotgun certificates were granted (Table 3). As with firearm certificates, the renewal of shotgun certificates moved to a five-year cycle on 1 January 1995. The number of renewal certificates in 2010/11 was 130,737. It is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes due to changes in the pattern of renewals in the late 1990s.

In 2010/11, around two per cent of new applications for shotgun certificates and less than one per cent of applications for the renewal of shotgun certificates were refused. The number of shotgun certificates revoked increased by 28 per cent, from 1,076 in 2009/10 to 1,379 in 2010/11. This is the highest number since the series began in 1992 (Table 5).

4. FIREARM DEALERS (see Notes, paragraphs 9 and 10)

On 31 March 2011, there were 3,205 registered firearm dealers in England and Wales, an increase of one per cent from the 3,182 dealers registered in 2009/10. The number of registered firearm dealers declined between 1996 and 2003/04, from 2,490 to 1,950 (a decline of 22%) but has since risen (Table 6). This increase is partly due to the introduction of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, which required businesses selling air weapons to register with the police as firearm dealers. This Act, which came into force on 1 October 2007, allowed businesses to apply for registration from 6 April 2007 (see Notes, paragraph 10). The effect of the Act can be seen in the relatively high number of applications (1,273) that were granted for previously unregistered dealers in 2007/08 (1,273 were granted in that year compared with less than 300 in all previous years; Table 6).

Details for applications, removals and registered dealers for each police force area are given in Table 7.

5. VISITORS' PERMITS (See Notes, paragraph 11)

In 2010/11, a total of 2,559 people were covered by individual and group firearm visitors' permits, a 16 per cent increase compared with 2009/10, when 2,209 people were covered and the highest number since the series began (Tables 8 and 9). The figures tend to fluctuate from year to year, averaging around 2,100 since 1995, the first year these particular data were collected.

In 2010/11, 7,856 people were covered by shotgun visitors' permits, an increase of nine per cent compared with 2009/10 and the second highest number since the series began. The highest figure of 7,930 was recorded in 2007/08 (Tables 8 and 10).

6. EUROPEAN FIREARMS PASSES (EFPs) AND ARTICLE 7 AUTHORITIES

(See Notes, paragraph 12)

The police began to issue EFPs in January 1993. At the end of March 2011, 15,030 EFPs were on issue in England and Wales (Table 11), a decrease of four per cent compared with the 15,570 EFPs on issue at the end of March 2010.³

During 2010/11, nine applications for Article 7 Authorities were granted to certificate holders, compared with two during 2009/10 (Table 12).⁴

³ See Table 10 in [Firearm Certificates 2009/10](#) Eder (2010).

⁴ See Table 11 in [Firearm Certificates 2009/10](#) Eder (2010).

NOTES

Accuracy of the statistics

1. The statistics in this bulletin for years up to and including 2005/06 were compiled by each police force and included in an annual aggregate return to the Home Office. Figures from 2007/08 onwards have been extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). They are subject to the measurement inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. To ensure the reliability of data, prior to publication, each force was asked to check their own provisional data and supply revised figures where necessary.

Regulations on the issue of certificates and permits

2. All persons acquiring or in possession of a firearm or shotgun must have a certificate issued by the Chief Police Officer of the police force area in which the person lives, unless they are otherwise exempt. Persons sentenced to any form of custody for a period of three years or more are prohibited from possessing firearms for life. Those sentenced to three months or more but less than three years are subject to a five-year prohibition from the date of their release.

3. Firearm certificates are issued for weapons covered by section 1 of the 1968 Firearms Act (as amended), including rifles, muzzle-loading revolvers and shotguns with magazines that are capable of holding more than two cartridges. The Chief Police Officer must be satisfied that an applicant has good reason for wanting a weapon, is fit to be entrusted with it, and that the public safety or the peace will not be endangered. The certificate lists the number, type and serial number of each weapon held and any conditions attached (a standard condition is that weapons and ammunition are held in a secure place when not in use).

4. The Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 banned all firearms with a barrel less than 30 cm in length or with an overall length of less than 60 cm. Certain types of firearms remain exempt, including muzzle-loading guns, firearms used for the humane killing of animals, flare pistols and vintage pistols held as war trophies or collectors' items.

5. Section 39 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 banned air weapons that use, or are designed or adapted for use with, a self-contained gas cartridge system. With effect from 20 January 2004, under section 5(3) of the 1968 Act, such weapons could not be purchased, acquired, manufactured, sold or transferred without the Secretary of State's authority. The offence of possession was brought into force separately under subsection 4 and came into effect on 30 April 2004. This made provision for existing owners to keep and continue to use their weapons, provided the weapons were added to a firearm certificate (new or variation). Existing owners who did not wish to apply for a certificate were able to hand their weapon into the police for disposal by 30 April 2004.

6. Shotgun certificates, covered by section 2 of the 1968 Act and section 2 of the 1988 Act, permit the holder to possess any number of shotguns. These can include pump-action and self-loading weapons that have a magazine that is incapable of holding more than two cartridges, but excludes large magazine smooth bore guns. Apart from the general prohibitions applying to all types of firearm, applications may not be granted or renewed if a Chief Police Officer has reason to believe that the applicant is prohibited by the Firearms Acts from possessing a shotgun or if he/she is satisfied that the applicant does not have a good reason for possessing, purchasing or acquiring one. Nor may applications be granted or renewed unless the Chief Police Officer is satisfied that the applicant can be permitted to possess a shotgun without danger to the public safety or to the peace (section 3 of the

1988 Act). The certificate specifies the description of the shotguns including, if known, the identification numbers of the guns.

7. Certain types of weapons (e.g. machine guns) are prohibited under section 5 of the 1968 Act as amended by section 1 of the 1988 Act; their possession can only be authorised by the Secretary of State after careful enquiries by the police.

8. The Firearms (Period of Certificate) Order 1994 came into effect on 1 January 1995. The Order extends the life of all firearm and shotgun certificates granted or renewed after that date to five years. To alter the number and type of weapons held on a firearm certificate, an application for a variation must be made to the Chief Police Officer. The expiry date of a shotgun certificate can be aligned with the holder's firearm certificate (section 11 of the 1988 Act). In 1989, forces began recording the number of weapons for both firearm and shotgun certificates on their computer systems.

9. Section 13 of the 1988 Act increased the registration period for dealers from one to three years. The grounds for refusal of new applications for registration were extended and a register of transactions must be retained for at least five years.

10. Section 31 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 required businesses that sell air weapons to register with the police as dealers. The section was brought into place in two stages: businesses were able to apply for registration from 6 April 2007 and the offence of not being registered came into effect on 1 October 2007.

Regulations on the issue of visitors' permits

11. The conditions for exemptions from holding a firearm certificate were revised in sections 15 to 19 of the 1988 Act. Visitors' permits were introduced allowing the holder to possess a firearm or shotgun without holding a certificate. Permits are in force for a period not exceeding 12 months. Group applications may be made for up to 20 persons (section 17 of the 1988 Act).

12. Each EU state was required to amend its firearms legislation to meet the requirements of the 1991 EC Weapons Directive. In the UK these changes were made by means of the Firearms Acts (Amendment) Regulations 1992, which made provision for the police to issue two new documents to British residents: the European Firearms Pass (EFP) and an Article 7 Authority.

(a) The EFP is broadly speaking a passport for firearms. EU residents intending to take their firearm or shotgun to another EU state will need an EFP issued by their State of residence. There is only one criterion for the issue of an EFP to a British resident, that the applicant must possess a valid firearm or shotgun certificate. The EFP does not replace the certificate.

(b) Article 7 of the Weapons Directive requires any EU resident wanting to purchase certain types of firearms, or ammunition for such firearms, outside his or her State of residence to have the prior authority of their own State. In England, Wales and Scotland this agreement is at the discretion of the local Chief Police Officer. Firearms cannot be brought into the UK if an individual does not hold an appropriate firearm certificate, even if Article 7 Authority has been granted.

Table abbreviations

'-' indicates nil

'..' indicates that data are not available.

Table 1 Firearm certificates: applications, certificates on issue and firearms covered by certificates: 1971 and 1983 to 2010/11^{1,2}

Numbers	England and Wales									
	Year	Applications						Firearm certificates on issue	Number of firearms covered by certificates on issue ⁴	Average number of firearms per certificate
		New applications			Renewal applications ³					
		Granted	Refused	% refused	Granted	Refused	% refused			
1971	..	..	..	..	..	..	190,600	..	..
1983 ⁵	10,500	230	2.1	43,400	200	0.5	159,800	..	..
1984 ⁵	11,400	220	1.9	43,700	180	0.4	160,300	..	..
1985 ⁵	11,700	220	1.8	44,200	150	0.3	160,400	..	..
1986 ⁵	12,100	260	2.1	43,600	240	0.5	160,300	..	..
1987 ⁵	11,500	230	2.0	42,600	280	0.7	159,000	..	..
1988 ⁵	10,100	240	2.3	41,400	410	1.0	155,400	..	..
1989	10,800	260	2.4	40,500	300	0.7	149,400	..	..
1990	11,200	230	2.0	38,700	240	0.6	142,500	..	..
1991	10,100	180	1.8	38,400	170	0.4	138,600	..	..
1992	10,600	160	1.5	38,500	120	0.3	136,800	..	..
1993	10,900	120	1.1	37,300	170	0.5	138,400	..	..
1994	11,700	120	1.0	37,900	130	0.3	140,200	..	..
1995	10,900	110	1.0	38,500	110	0.3	141,700	413,600	2.9	
1996	10,200	160	1.5	38,100	120	0.3	141,900	418,300	2.9	
1997	6,800	120	1.7	32,800	80	0.2	133,600	305,000	2.3	
1998	5,900	110	1.8	1,600	10	0.6	131,900	295,000	2.2	
1999	5,000	90	1.8	250	0	0.0	132,300	296,400	2.2	
2000	5,900	80	1.3	26,200	90	0.3	125,400	296,800	2.4	
2001	7,100	80	1.1	31,300	110	0.4	119,600	301,000	2.5	
2002	8,600	80	0.9	28,800	90	0.3	117,700	311,000	2.6	
2002/03	8,600	70	0.8	25,100	70	0.3	118,600	316,700	2.7	
2003/04	7,700	80	1.0	4,100	10	0.2	122,100	342,200	2.8	
2004/05	9,100	150	1.6	8,300	10	0.1	126,400	358,300	2.8	
2005/06	8,600	90	1.0	29,100	40	0.1	127,900	368,600	2.9	
2006/07 ⁶	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08 ⁶	11,601	123	1.0	30,158	50	0.2	128,528	..	..
2008/09	10,046	133	1.3	9,668	24	0.2	138,728	435,383	3.1	
2009/10	9,462	105	1.1	13,500	15	0.1	141,775	451,131	3.2	
2010/11	11,286	129	1.1	34,132	34	0.1	141,347	464,839	3.3	

1. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years as at 31 March.

2. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

3. The extension of the period of the certificates from three years to five years in 1995 meant that no renewals were due in 1998 and 1999. Those shown are delayed applications from 1997.

4. Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995.

5. Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

6. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the NFLMS in 2006.

Table 2 Firearm certificates: applications for grant, renewal, variation, and revocations, 2010/11; certificates on issue at 31 March 2011 by police force area

Police force area	Applications						Revocations	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 March	Number of firearms covered by certificates in force at 31 March	Average number of firearms per certificate
	New applications		Renewal applications		Variation of certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	449	5	1,448	1	358	2	41	5,531	16,949	3.1
Bedfordshire	131	1	406	0	140	0	3	1,565	5,307	3.4
Cambridgeshire	226	0	683	0	169	0	7	2,781	7,838	2.8
Cheshire	174	2	641	0	124	0	2	2,678	8,095	3.0
Cleveland	80	0	244	0	69	0	7	973	3,013	3.1
Cumbria	152	1	813	0	165	1	7	3,418	10,124	3.0
Derbyshire	237	3	724	1	200	0	8	3,132	10,873	3.5
Devon and Cornwall	964	8	2,437	0	542	0	13	9,711	26,945	2.8
Dorset	241	3	707	0	144	1	9	3,225	10,214	3.2
Durham	182	5	622	1	188	0	3	2,505	7,781	3.1
Essex	389	2	1,159	0	316	0	16	4,800	16,911	3.5
Gloucestershire	169	1	631	0	158	0	3	2,460	7,869	3.2
Greater Manchester	197	2	504	1	152	0	6	2,072	8,861	4.3
Hampshire	309	4	1,121	5	298	1	16	4,988	17,318	3.5
Hertfordshire	186	1	498	1	176	0	8	2,224	10,964	4.9
Humberside	212	5	572	0	197	0	8	2,619	7,829	3.0
Kent	509	2	1,238	1	370	1	3	4,901	16,739	3.4
Lancashire	255	0	675	0	206	1	8	2,343	9,401	4.0
Leicestershire	177	0	469	0	170	0	4	2,152	6,927	3.2
Lincolnshire	290	5	1,002	0	213	0	8	3,928	10,887	2.8
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	4.5
Merseyside	67	1	255	0	56	0	0	932	3,588	3.8
Metropolitan Police	469	15	937	3	343	4	13	4,312	15,786	3.7
Norfolk	465	1	985	0	301	2	6	4,636	14,041	3.0
Northamptonshire	97	1	537	0	231	4	2	2,511	8,083	3.2
Northumbria	285	4	1,003	2	210	1	11	3,626	10,494	2.9
North Yorkshire	426	2	1,643	0	321	2	17	6,062	17,272	2.8
Nottinghamshire	140	1	447	0	137	0	6	1,942	7,087	3.6
South Yorkshire	178	0	379	0	187	0	8	1,788	6,345	3.5
Staffordshire	198	1	707	0	166	0	7	2,831	10,313	3.6
Suffolk	335	5	1,151	0	244	0	7	4,322	12,267	2.8
Surrey	248	4	644	4	211	0	9	2,838	10,628	3.7
Sussex	455	5	1,319	1	370	0	26	5,852	22,070	3.8
Thames Valley	375	6	1,772	0	343	0	14	6,399	21,197	3.3
Warwickshire	159	1	539	0	121	0	4	2,086	6,926	3.3
West Mercia	456	13	1,356	4	307	3	33	6,059	20,369	3.4
West Midlands	146	1	421	0	189	1	14	1,894	7,539	4.0
West Yorkshire	231	6	515	1	168	1	4	2,812	9,458	3.4
Wiltshire	286	4	765	1	218	0	7	3,048	9,949	3.3
Dyfed-Powys	315	3	777	7	160	0	7	3,619	12,267	3.4
Gwent	93	0	251	0	126	1	2	1,212	4,287	3.5
North Wales	182	4	730	0	144	2	11	2,593	6,902	2.7
South Wales	151	1	405	0	146	1	16	1,965	7,117	3.6
England and Wales	11,286	129	34,132	34	9,054	29	404	141,347	464,839	3.3

Table 3 Shotgun certificates: applications, certificates on issue and shotguns covered by certificates: 1971 and 1983 to 2010/11 ^{1,2}

Numbers	England and Wales									
	Year	Applications						Shotgun certificates on issue	Number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue ⁴	Average number of shotguns per certificate
		New applications			Renewal applications ³					
	Granted	Refused	% refused	Granted	Refused	% refused				
1971	..	..		..	..		715,500	..	..
1983 ⁵	46,600	500	1.1	233,700	170	0.1	783,400	..	..
1984 ⁵	55,600	580	1.0	233,000	150	0.1	798,400	..	..
1985 ^{5,6}	60,500	690	1.1	232,900	170	0.1	819,300	..	..
1986 ⁵	64,100	810	1.2	239,900	160	0.1	841,000	..	..
1987 ⁵	65,000	960	1.5	246,300	230	0.1	861,300	..	..
1988 ^{5,6}	56,800	980	1.7	245,000	340	0.1	882,000	..	..
1989	47,500	970	2.0	226,200	330	0.1	865,100	..	..
1990 ⁵	37,800	550	1.4	213,500	650	0.3	802,300	..	..
1991 ⁷	35,500	540	1.5	208,700	450	0.2	724,600	..	..
1992	33,000	530	1.6	197,200	240	0.1	689,200	..	..
1993	31,100	450	1.4	195,800	190	0.1	681,100	..	..
1994	32,200	440	1.3	201,400	140	0.1	670,000	..	..
1995	24,800	360	1.4	195,900	130	0.1	653,800	1,325,800	2.0	
1996	25,800	500	1.9	193,100	230	0.1	638,000	1,335,000	2.1	
1997	20,800	380	1.8	174,500	170	0.1	623,100	1,343,900	2.2	
1998	16,900	380	2.2	6,600	60	0.9	627,600	1,343,100	2.1	
1999	15,600	440	2.7	2,500	10	0.4	625,700	1,327,800	2.1	
2000	18,200	350	1.9	141,300	280	0.2	602,500	1,320,900	2.2	
2001	22,700	370	1.6	162,400	310	0.2	577,200	1,307,600	2.3	
2002	25,600	350	1.3	152,700	300	0.2	559,000	1,314,600	2.4	
2002/03	26,100	350	1.3	125,200	260	0.2	561,800	1,325,400	2.4	
2003/04	22,500	370	1.6	13,500	50	0.4	569,900	1,372,700	2.4	
2004/05	23,400	490	2.1	46,600	40	0.1	572,400	1,384,000	2.4	
2005/06	25,200	380	1.5	141,100	180	0.1	563,600	1,360,800	2.4	
2006/07 ⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08 ⁸	32,358	552	1.7	123,766	170	0.1	549,207	..	..
2008/09	25,411	492	1.9	25,408	93	0.4	574,946	1,366,082	2.4	
2009/10	23,950	462	1.9	47,137	45	0.1	580,653	1,358,522	2.3	
2010/11	29,068	533	1.8	130,737	170	0.1	564,269	1,336,701	2.4	

1. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years as at 31 March.

2. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

3. The extension of the period of the certificates from three years to five years in 1995 means that renewal figures since this date are not directly comparable. No renewals were due in 1998 and 1999, those shown are delayed applications from 1997.

4. Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995.

5. Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

6. Records of shotgun certificates on issue were computerised by the Metropolitan Police in 1985 and Thames Valley in 1988 bringing to light previous under-recording of these figures by up to 7,000 in each force.

7. Reductions of about 9,000 certificates in Essex, 6,000 certificates in Kent and 2,000 in West Mercia occurred in 1991 due to previous over-recording in these forces' figures.

8. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the NFLMS in 2006.

Table 4 Shotgun certificates: applications for grant, renewal, variation, and revocations, 2010/11; certificates on issue at 31 March 2011 by police force area

Police force area	England and Wales							
	Applications				Revocations	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 March	Number of shotguns covered by certificates in force at 31 March	Average number of shotguns per certificate
	New applications		Renewal applications					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	911	24	5,044	4	104	20,981	45,490	2.2
Bedfordshire	330	1	1,643	2	5	6,477	15,295	2.4
Cambridgeshire	707	4	3,117	1	31	12,642	29,748	2.4
Cheshire	474	14	2,260	3	13	11,640	27,296	2.3
Cleveland	138	9	525	1	16	2,572	5,517	2.1
Cumbria	304	1	1,597	-	15	9,865	22,590	2.3
Derbyshire	676	20	2,403	1	30	12,228	28,592	2.3
Devon and Cornwall	1,337	12	7,583	7	26	31,271	69,254	2.2
Dorset	549	11	2,186	2	32	10,925	23,948	2.2
Durham	325	13	1,418	3	16	6,158	14,193	2.3
Essex	1,039	9	4,933	6	52	21,115	49,072	2.3
Gloucestershire	553	2	2,549	-	10	10,504	26,168	2.5
Greater Manchester	510	9	2,036	6	30	8,348	18,333	2.2
Hampshire	983	23	4,759	13	70	21,376	49,527	2.3
Hertfordshire	648	19	2,254	4	31	10,069	29,985	3.0
Humberside	392	22	1,813	5	19	9,408	24,603	2.6
Kent	1,222	6	5,332	-	18	21,507	49,099	2.3
Lancashire	749	-	2,638	1	13	9,753	27,872	2.9
Leicestershire	648	1	2,497	-	10	10,929	26,068	2.4
Lincolnshire	564	10	3,486	5	41	14,881	38,658	2.6
London, City of	3	-	9	-	-	31	42	1.4
Merseyside	161	4	828	-	5	3,494	7,350	2.1
Metropolitan Police	2,224	54	5,467	16	89	25,389	49,816	2.0
Norfolk	1,353	5	5,002	-	17	20,303	55,178	2.7
Northamptonshire	332	5	2,171	-	11	9,754	22,851	2.3
Northumbria	550	23	1,946	1	37	9,115	20,581	2.3
North Yorkshire	827	11	4,103	5	41	18,357	41,774	2.3
Nottinghamshire	465	5	2,045	2	16	8,737	20,712	2.4
South Yorkshire	509	7	1,826	-	29	8,214	18,254	2.2
Staffordshire	571	14	3,038	2	21	13,034	32,005	2.5
Suffolk	752	12	4,112	1	29	17,101	41,603	2.4
Surrey	864	8	2,996	9	33	12,913	28,678	2.2
Sussex	930	14	3,896	9	71	19,766	47,352	2.4
Thames Valley	1,479	30	7,167	7	76	27,707	65,744	2.4
Warwickshire	467	3	2,195	2	26	8,744	20,527	2.3
West Mercia	1,088	57	5,747	17	125	25,963	68,080	2.6
West Midlands	386	9	2,324	-	34	8,358	18,114	2.2
West Yorkshire	594	17	1,830	8	25	10,556	22,799	2.2
Wiltshire	757	8	3,016	2	26	12,766	28,436	2.2
Dyfed-Powys	713	13	4,206	10	24	15,986	44,351	2.8
Gwent	176	-	1,307	1	5	5,628	14,183	2.5
North Wales	476	17	3,487	4	37	12,197	29,234	2.4
South Wales	332	7	1,946	10	20	7,507	17,729	2.4
England and Wales	29,068	533	130,737	170	1,379	564,269	1,336,701	2.4

Table 5: Number of firearm and shotgun certificate revocations, 1992 to 2010/11

Numbers	England and Wales	
	Firearm certificates	Shotgun certificates
1992	146	630
1993	147	687
1994	193	753
1995	206	685
1996	392	1,163
1997	393	1,133
1998	403	1,084
1999	341	1,003
2000	334	940
2001	309	810
2002	..	..
2002/03	188	623
2003/04	195	684
2004/05	314	956
2005/06	196	699
2006/07	..	..
2007/08 ¹	248	904
2008/09	260	1,009
2009/10	302	1,076
2010/11	404	1,379

1. From 2007/08 data are extracted from the NFLMS. Prior to this year, figures were supplied direct to the Home Office from police forces.

.. Data not available

Table 6 Firearm dealers: applications for registration and renewal, granted, and refused; dealers registered, 1995 to 2010/11¹

Numbers	England and Wales					
	Year	Applications for registration from dealers				Dealers registered ²
		Previously unregistered		Previously registered		
		Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	
1995	193	10	1,760	13	2,470	
1996	149	14	240	2	2,490	
1997	102	5	80	2	2,400	
1998	120	6	1,360	18	2,180	
1999	172	3	180	1	2,090	
2000	133	-	190	2	2,070	
2001	249	3	1,150	9	1,960	
2002/03	154	2	250	3	1,970	
2003/04	281	6	300	1	1,950	
2004/05	167	5	1,050	-	1,970	
2005/06	228	1	310	1	2,030	
2006/07 ³	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08	1,273	9	1,035	-	2,792	
2008/09	667	7	325	1	2,840	
2009/10	628	9	303	2	3,182	
2010/11	834	6	1,345	5	3,205	

1. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years as at 31 March.

2. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

3. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the NFLMS in 2006.

Table 7 Firearm dealers: applications for registration and removals from register, 2010/11; dealers registered at 31 March 2011 by police force area

Numbers	England and Wales					
	New applications for registration		Applications for new certificates from registered dealers		Dealers removed from register	Dealers registered at 31 March
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
Avon and Somerset	38	-	36	-	33	88
Bedfordshire	16	-	13	-	2	35
Cambridgeshire	8	-	17	-	12	43
Cheshire	4	-	18	-	2	41
Cleveland	3	-	9	-	-	18
Cumbria	1	-	21	-	-	46
Derbyshire	16	-	34	1	3	72
Devon and Cornwall	27	1	71	1	3	133
Dorset	3	1	30	-	2	58
Durham	6	-	18	-	1	30
Essex	8	-	75	-	2	122
Gloucestershire	4	1	23	-	-	36
Greater Manchester	6	-	32	-	5	58
Hampshire	19	2	37	-	-	99
Hertfordshire	7	-	27	-	-	61
Humberside	7	-	29	-	4	54
Kent	16	-	59	-	6	126
Lancashire	5	-	30	-	-	42
Leicestershire	12	-	24	-	3	49
Lincolnshire ¹	46	-	7	-	-	77
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	3	-	10	-	-	14
Metropolitan Police	35	-	76	1	17	184
Norfolk	15	-	45	-	8	53
Northamptonshire	17	-	18	-	2	59
Northumbria	9	-	27	-	3	51
North Yorkshire	44	-	14	-	2	81
Nottinghamshire	68	-	26	-	3	139
South Yorkshire	10	-	15	-	4	35
Staffordshire	40	-	40	-	5	115
Suffolk	18	1	29	-	7	77
Surrey	71	-	46	1	-	169
Sussex	13	-	60	-	1	107
Thames Valley	45	-	73	-	4	174
Warwickshire	86	-	26	1	3	140
West Mercia	35	-	57	-	1	137
West Midlands	6	-	49	-	2	81
West Yorkshire	13	-	22	-	57	62
Wiltshire	27	-	26	-	6	87
Dyfed-Powys	15	-	23	-	6	50
Gwent	4	-	15	-	1	26
North Wales	4	-	20	-	-	39
South Wales	4	-	18	-	-	37
England and Wales	834	6	1,345	5	210	3,205

1. Dealers figures are not reliable due to NFLMS process change in the way in which they are recorded. This issue should be correct for 2011/12 figures.

Table 8 Visitors' permits, 1995 to 2010/11¹

Numbers	England and Wales	
	Total persons covered ²	
Year	Firearm certificates	Shotgun certificates
1995	1,960	5,850
1996	2,400	7,120
1997	2,100	6,570
1998	2,350	7,140
1999	1,920	6,420
2000	2,280	5,990
2001	1,630	5,260
2002/03	2,220	5,680
2003/04	1,810	5,780
2004/05	2,110	6,200
2005/06	1,770	5,360
2006/07 ³	..	..
2007/08	2,345	7,930
2008/09	1,974	7,035
2009/10	2,209	7,186
2010/11	2,559	7,856

1. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

2. Due to differences in recording between the NFLMS and the previous in-force collections the number of persons covered by visitors' permits can no longer be broken down by individual and group permits.

3. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the NFLMS.

Table 9 Visitors' firearm permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area, 2010/11

Police force area	England and Wales						
	New applications				Total of persons covered	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications			Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused			
Avon and Somerset	136	-	1	-	144	-	-
Bedfordshire	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
Cambridgeshire	7	-	-	-	7	-	-
Cheshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cleveland	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cumbria	21	-	-	-	21	-	-
Derbyshire	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	61	-	1	-	67	-	-
Dorset	218	-	-	-	218	-	-
Durham	18	-	-	-	18	-	-
Essex	41	-	-	-	41	-	-
Gloucestershire	15	-	-	-	15	-	-
Greater Manchester	6	-	-	-	6	-	-
Hampshire	187	-	4	-	213	-	-
Hertfordshire	29	-	2	-	43	-	-
Humberside	6	-	-	-	6	-	-
Kent	17	-	-	-	17	-	-
Lancashire	45	-	3	-	75	-	-
Leicestershire	28	-	1	-	34	-	-
Lincolnshire	22	-	-	-	22	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Metropolitan Police	85	1	3	-	123	-	-
Norfolk	60	-	-	-	60	-	-
Northamptonshire	24	-	-	-	24	-	-
Northumbria	70	-	-	-	70	-	-
North Yorkshire	37	-	1	-	45	-	-
Nottinghamshire	6	-	-	-	6	-	-
South Yorkshire	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Staffordshire	51	-	1	-	58	-	-
Suffolk	102	-	2	-	108	-	-
Surrey	157	-	28	-	560	-	-
Sussex	72	-	2	-	78	-	-
Thames Valley	153	-	2	-	169	-	-
Warwickshire	51	-	1	-	58	-	-
West Mercia	21	-	-	-	21	-	-
West Midlands	59	-	-	-	59	-	-
West Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Wiltshire	130	-	1	-	137	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Gwent	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
North Wales	10	-	-	-	10	-	-
South Wales	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
England and Wales	1,971	1	53	-	2,559	-	-

Table 10 Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area, 2010/11

Police force area	England and Wales						
	New applications				Total of persons covered	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications			Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused			
Avon and Somerset	193	-	6	-	239	-	-
Bedfordshire	186	-	10	-	226	-	-
Cambridgeshire	59	-	1	-	65	-	-
Cheshire	19	-	-	-	19	-	-
Cleveland	7	-	-	-	7	-	-
Cumbria	158	-	-	-	158	-	-
Derbyshire	36	-	2	-	54	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	129	-	4	-	162	-	-
Dorset	130	-	-	-	130	-	-
Durham	51	-	1	-	57	-	-
Essex	152	-	3	-	159	-	-
Gloucestershire	96	-	2	-	116	-	-
Greater Manchester	28	-	1	-	34	-	-
Hampshire	669	-	32	-	828	-	-
Hertfordshire	37	-	1	-	45	-	-
Humberside	56	-	1	-	62	-	-
Kent	171	-	7	-	252	-	-
Lancashire	22	-	-	-	22	-	-
Leicestershire	101	-	5	-	157	-	-
Lincolnshire	215	-	2	-	248	-	-
London, City of	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Merseyside	10	-	-	-	10	-	-
Metropolitan Police	257	-	2	-	281	-	-
Norfolk	302	-	8	-	342	-	-
Northamptonshire	105	-	1	-	112	-	-
Northumbria	256	-	9	-	315	-	-
North Yorkshire	268	-	16	-	372	-	-
Nottinghamshire	13	-	-	-	13	-	-
South Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Staffordshire	61	-	3	-	76	-	-
Suffolk	322	-	9	-	363	-	-
Surrey	487	-	29	-	756	-	-
Sussex	256	-	11	-	320	-	-
Thames Valley	820	-	32	-	903	-	-
Warwickshire	60	-	2	-	73	-	-
West Mercia	203	-	11	-	235	-	-
West Midlands	11	1	-	-	11	-	-
West Yorkshire	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
Wiltshire	378	-	4	-	397	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	25	-	1	-	32	-	-
Gwent	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
North Wales	146	-	5	-	170	-	-
South Wales	13	-	1	-	22	-	-
England and Wales	6,521	1	222	-	7,856	-	-

Table 11 European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and cancellations during 2010/11; passes on issue at 31 March 2011, by police force area

Police force area	England and Wales				
	Applications			Cancellations	Passes on issue at 31 March
	Grant of new certificate	Renewal of certificate	Variation of certificate		
Avon and Somerset	62	105	-	44	407
Bedfordshire	27	39	-	12	137
Cambridgeshire	43	77	-	29	297
Cheshire	24	65	-	12	263
Cleveland	14	15	-	3	52
Cumbria	13	28	-	16	110
Derbyshire	41	49	-	23	235
Devon and Cornwall	74	91	-	32	425
Dorset	86	25	-	13	236
Durham	7	16	-	8	60
Essex	82	145	-	72	609
Gloucestershire	35	87	-	26	330
Greater Manchester	32	52	-	18	223
Hampshire	77	158	-	55	652
Hertfordshire	46	102	-	21	391
Humberside	24	39	-	11	128
Kent	109	209	-	86	767
Lancashire	52	65	-	11	227
Leicestershire	21	35	-	11	209
Lincolnshire	29	45	-	18	221
London, City of	1	-	-	-	2
Merseyside	14	5	-	-	30
Metropolitan Police	465	487	-	123	2,657
Norfolk	69	47	-	22	243
Northamptonshire	29	82	-	30	269
Northumbria	29	33	-	39	158
North Yorkshire	43	108	-	15	360
Nottinghamshire	27	22	-	4	145
South Yorkshire	9	24	-	7	131
Staffordshire	23	50	-	17	198
Suffolk	30	71	-	22	273
Surrey	97	202	-	75	763
Sussex	115	163	-	67	695
Thames Valley	150	252	-	60	992
Warwickshire	31	91	-	33	265
West Mercia	50	126	-	53	477
West Midlands	32	85	-	22	281
West Yorkshire	38	42	-	25	271
Wiltshire	44	65	-	13	297
Dyfed-Powys	33	43	-	13	149
Gwent	18	37	-	16	134
North Wales	24	14	-	6	92
South Wales	26	40	-	19	169
England and Wales	2,295	3,536	-	1,202	15,030

Table 12 Article 7 Authorities: applications for grant, variations and cancellations, by police force area, 2010/11

Police force area	Applications								Variations	Cancellations
	By certificate holders		By non-certificate holders		For possession outside UK		For ammunition only			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
Avon and Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridgeshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Derbyshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dorset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Lancashire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Norfolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northamptonshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nottinghamshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffordshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Suffolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surrey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thames Valley	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Warwickshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Mercia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Wiltshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gwent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
England and Wales	9	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	7