

29 August 2013

Statistical News Release: Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales 2012/13

The latest National Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates in England and Wales are released today. The figures show that there were increases in the numbers of firearm and shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2013 compared with the end of March 2012. There were 146,426 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2013 a 3.2% increase compared with a year earlier, and 570,726 shotgun certificates, a 1.4% increase over the same period.

The number of firearms covered by such certificates (498,048 firearms) also increased and is the highest number since these figures were first collected in 1995.

There were 10,077 new firearm certificates granted in 2012/13, a decrease of 12.4% from 2011/12. There were 26,429 new shotgun certificates granted during 2012/13, a 15.4% decrease compared with 2011/12.

A total of 339 firearm certificates were revoked in 2012/13, a fall of 2.9% since 2011/12. The number of shotgun certificates revoked fell by 5.8%, from 1,301 in 2011/12 to 1,226 in 2012/13.

There were 3,496 registered firearm dealers on 31 March 2013, an increase of 2.3% compared with the figure of 3,417 a year earlier, and the highest figure since records began in 1995. The number of firearm dealers has risen sharply in recent years, 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 2012/13 there were 2,150 people covered by firearm visitors' permits and 7,262 people covered by shotgun visitors' permits.

The Statistical Bulletin, 'Firearm and Shotgun Certificates England and Wales 2012/13' 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 2012/13' is available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/firearm-and-shotgun-certificates-in-england-and-wales-2012-to-2013>

The latest statistics on recorded offences involving the use of a firearm are published separately in Office for National Statistics release, 'Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2011/12'.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime/stb-focus-on--violent-crime-and-sexual-offences-2011-12.html>

For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office:

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