

Home Office Statistical Bulletin



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Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales 2012/13

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Further information

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Table abbreviations

'-' indicates nil amount or, for percentage changes, that the amount is not reported because the base number is less than 50

'..' indicates data are not available

'.' indicates not applicable

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SUMMARY

There were 146,426 firearm certificates on issue on 31 March 2013, an increase of 3.2% compared with 141,820 on issue at the end of March 2012. The longer-term trend shows that there has been a rise in the number of firearm certificates on issue since 2002/03 (despite a slight fall in 2010/11).

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

There were 570,726 shotgun certificates on issue on 31 March 2013, an increase of 1.4% from the 562,696 on issue at the end of March 2012. Despite this rise, the longer-term trend since 2002 in shotgun certificates is relatively flat.

There were 10,077 new firearm certificates granted in 2012/13, a decrease of 12.4% from the 11,502 new certificates granted during 2011/12. This follows an increase of 1.9% between 2010/11 and 2011/12 and a 19.3% increase between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

There were 26,429 new shotgun certificates granted during 2012/13, a 15.4% decrease compared with 2011/12 when 31,254 new shotgun certificates were granted.

Around 1.4% of new applications for firearm certificates and 2.2% of new applications for shotgun certificates were refused in 2012/13.

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 number since these figures were first collected in 1995.

There were 2,150 people covered by firearm visitors' permits and 7,262 people covered by shotgun visitors' permits in 2012/13.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on firearm and shotgun certificates under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997. It covers certificates issued by police forces in the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, as well as historical trend data and police force comparisons. The bulletin also provides information on the number of registered firearm dealers, visitors' permits and European Firearm Passes (EFP) issued.

This bulletin has previously been published in March each year, but as the data now come directly from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) we are able to produce it in a more timely fashion.

The definitions of a firearm and a shotgun are provided in Box 1. Further details of the legislation covering the licensing of firearms are given in the notes at the end of this report.

Box 1 Definitions

According to the Firearms Act 1968, a **firearm** means a lethal barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged. It includes any prohibited weapon, any component part of such a weapon and any accessory to such a weapon designed or adapted to diminish the noise or flash caused by the firing of the weapon.

It is – with certain statutory exceptions – an offence to possess, purchase, or acquire any firearm or ammunition to which section 1 of the Firearms Act 1968 applies without holding a firearm certificate.

Section 1 of the 1968 Act applies to all firearms except a shotgun or an air gun.

A **shotgun** is defined as a smooth-bore gun (not being an air gun) which: (i) has a barrel not less than 24 inches in length and does not have any barrel with a bore exceeding 2 inches in diameter; (ii) either has no magazine or has a non-detachable magazine incapable of holding more than 2 cartridges; and (iii) is not a revolver gun. Other smooth-bore guns may require a firearm certificate.

It is – with certain statutory exceptions – an offence for a person to possess, purchase, or acquire any shotgun without holding a shotgun certificate.

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 firearm 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, and is a live operational system that allows police forces to interrogate the data. To produce statistics for this bulletin, data were extracted for the financial year (1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013) on 5 April 2013.

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 2011/12 were published separately in <u>Focus</u> on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2011/12¹.

Revisions analysis

For this firearm and shotgun certificates in England and Wales statistical release, there were no revisions made to the previous year's data, as data for retrospective years cannot be extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System. This is because the National Firearms Licensing Management System is a live operational system, and to obtain data as at a specific date the extract will need to be run on the same date.

Figures for other countries

Annual statistics on the number of firearm and shotgun certificates granted, renewed and revoked by police forces in Scotland are published on the Scottish Government's website: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubFirearmCertificates.

Similar statistics for the Police Service of Northern Ireland are not published; however, data can be provided through a Freedom of Information request: http://www.psni.police.uk/directory/about-us/publications.htm.

2. FIREARM CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9)

There are 3 series of data collections covering firearm certificates. The data on firearm certificates on issue have been collected since 1971, with a break of 12 years before it started again in 1983, since when they have been collected every year. The data collection on new and renewal applications has been running every year since 1983, and the data on the number of firearms covered by certificates on issue have been collected every year since 1995.

Number of certificates on issue

There were 146,426 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2013, an increase of 3.2% compared with the 141,820 on issue at the end of March 2012 (Table 1 and Figure 1).

The number of firearm certificates on issue generally declined between 1971, soon after the introduction of the 1968 Firearms Act, and 2002. Since then, there has been an upward trend (notwithstanding the slight fall in 2010/11). The number of firearm certificates on issue in 2012/13 is 24.4% higher than in 2002.

The number of firearms covered by such certificates² (498,048 firearms) in 2012/13 also increased and is the highest number since these figures were first collected in 1995.

The number of firearms 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 firearms covered by certificates has increased by 68.8%.

¹ 2012/13 figures will be published in February 2014.

² This figure includes those actually possessed and those authorised for possession but not yet acquired.

The rise in the number of firearms since 1998 is largely explained by an increase in the number of firearms covered by each certificate. The average number of firearms per certificate on 31 March 2013 was 3.4, the same percentage as on 31 March 2012 and the highest since figures were first collected in 1995 (Table 1). The number of firearms per certificate has gradually increased from 2.2 in 1999 to the figure of 3.4 reported this year.

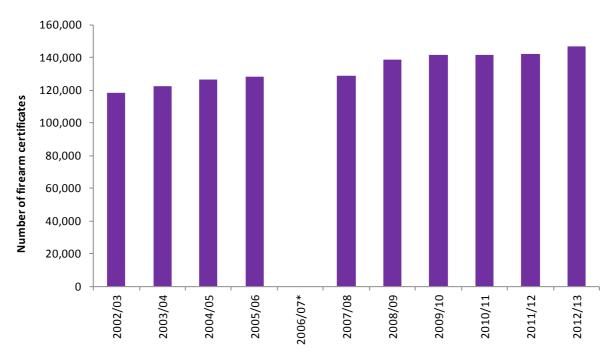
Details for applications, renewal, variation and revocations, as well as certificates and firearms held by the population for each police force area in 2012/13 are given in Table 2.

The police forces with the highest number of firearm certificates on issue were Devon and Cornwall (10,222), West Mercia (6,587) and Thames Valley (6,449).

Number of firearms covered by certificates on issue

The number of firearms covered by certificates on issue per 100,000 people was highest in Dyfed-Powys (2,512 per 100,000 population), North Yorkshire (2,345 per 100,000 population) and Cumbria (2,149 per 100,000 population). The police forces with the lowest number of firearms covered by certificates on issue per head of population were Metropolitan Police (200 per 100,000 population), City of London (229 per 100,000 population) and Merseyside (280 per 100,000 population). This pattern is not surprising; those police forces with the highest number of firearms per head of population are in the more rural areas, where the population tends to be lower and firearms are more frequently used for employment and leisure activities.

Figure 1 Firearm certificates on issue, 2002/03 to 2012/13



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

New applications and renewals

There were 10,077 new firearm certificates granted in 2012/13, a decrease of 12.4% from the 11,502 new certificates granted during 2011/12. This follows an increase of 1.9% between 2010/11 and 2011/12 and a 19.3% increase between 2009/10 and 2010/11 (Table 1).

In 2012/13, 1.4% of new applications for firearm certificates were refused. This is the second highest proportion since 1999, with only 2004/05 being higher (1.6%).

There were 28,696 renewal applications granted in 2012/13. In 1995 the renewal cycle for firearm certificates changed from 3 years to 5 years, so it is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes for renewals.

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, according to the Firearms Act 1968. For example, if the holder is of unsound mind or no longer has a good reason for having a firearm.

In 2012/13, a total of 339 firearm certificates were revoked (Table 2), falling from 404 in 2010/11 and 349 in 2011/12, but higher than other years since 2002 (Table 5).

3. SHOTGUN CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9)

There are 3 series of data collections covering shotgun certificates. The data on shotgun certificates on issue have been collected since 1971, with a break of 12 years before it started again in 1983, since when they have been collected every year. The data collection on new and renewal applications has been running every year since 1983, and the data on number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue have been collected every year since 1995.

Number of certificates on issue

There were 570,726 shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2013, a 1.4% increase compared with 562,696 at the end of March 2012 (Table 3 and Figure 2).

The number of shotgun certificates on issue peaked in 1988 (at 882,000) before gradually falling to 559,000 in 2002. Since then, the trend in the number of shotgun certificates held has been relatively flat. The number of certificates on issue this year is more than a third lower (35.3%) than the 1988 peak.

Shotgun certificates in force at the end of March 2013 covered 1,333,701 shotguns, an increase of 0.4% from the 1,328,647 on issue at the end of March 2012.

The average number of shotguns per certificate in 2012/13 was 2.3, slightly lower than the 2.4 in 2011/12. The average number of shotguns per certificate has been relatively steady over the last 10 years (Table 3).

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

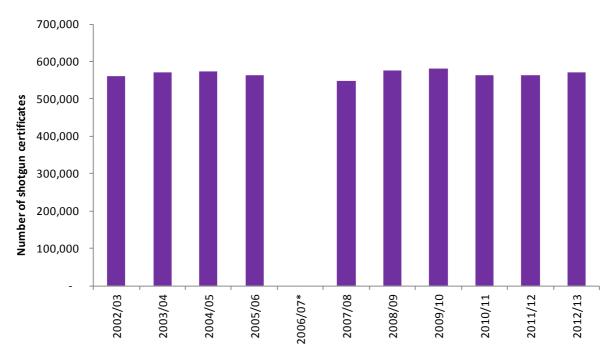
The police forces with the highest number of shotgun certificates on issue were Devon and Cornwall (30,987), Thames Valley (27,756) and West Mercia (27,673).

Number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue

The number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue per head of population was highest in Dyfed-Powys (8,454 per 100,000 population), Norfolk (6,474 per 100,000 population) and Suffolk (5,741 per 100,000 population). The police forces with the lowest number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue per head of population were Merseyside (545 per 100,000 population), Metropolitan Police (606 per 100,000 population) and City of London (634 per 100,000 population).

As with firearms, this is not unexpected; the police forces with the highest number of shotguns per head of population reflect the more rural nature of the areas, with lower population and shotguns used more frequently for employment and recreational activities.

Figure 2 Shotgun certificates on issue, 2002/03 to 2012/13



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

New applications, renewals and revocations

There were 26,429 new shotgun certificates granted during 2012/13, a 15.4% decrease compared with 2011/12 when 31,254 shotgun certificates were granted (Table 3). The number of renewal certificates in 2012/13 was 94,012.

As with firearm certificates, the renewal of shotgun certificates changed from a 3- to a 5-year cycle in 1995, so it is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes.

In 2012/13, 2.2% of new applications for shotgun certificates were refused, this is the joint second highest (with 1998) and only lower than 1999 (2.7%). Also, 0.2% of applications for the renewal of shotgun certificates were refused. The number of shotgun certificates revoked fell by 5.8%, from 1,301 in 2011/12 to 1,226 in 2012/13 (Table 5).

4. FIREARM DEALERS (see Notes, paragraphs 10 and 11)

On 31 March 2013, there were 3,496 registered firearm dealers in England and Wales, an increase of 2.3% from the 3,417 dealers registered in 2011/12 and the highest figure since records began in 1995. The number of registered firearm dealers declined between 1996 and 2003/04, from 2,490 to 1,950 (a decline of 21.7%) but has since risen (Table 6 and Figure 3).

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 that were granted for previously unregistered dealers in 2007/08; 1,273 were granted in that year compared with fewer than 300 in all previous years. There is a 3-year renewal cycle for previously registered dealers (see Note 10, Table 6).

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

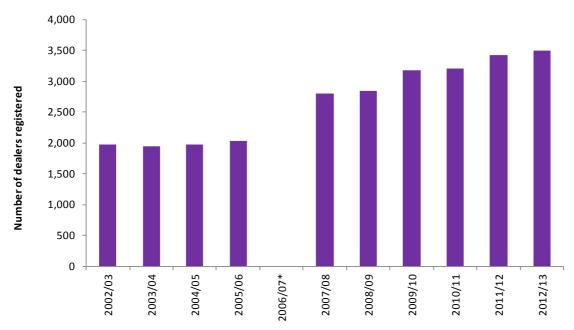


Figure 3 Firearm dealers registered, 2002/03 to 2012/13

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

5. VISITORS' PERMITS (See Notes, paragraph 12)

In 2012/13, a total of 2,150 people were covered by individual and group firearm visitors' permits, a 36.7% decrease compared with 2011/12, when 3,399 people were covered. In addition 7,262 people were covered by shotgun visitors' permits in 2012/13, a decrease of 10.1% compared with 2011/12 (8,075). The figures tend to fluctuate from year to year, but 2011/12 figures for both firearm visitors' permits and shotgun visitors' permits saw the highest number since the series began in 1995. This was likely to be related to the preparation for the shooting events in the Olympic and Paralympic games being held in the United Kingdom in 2012 (Tables 8 and 9, and Figure 4).

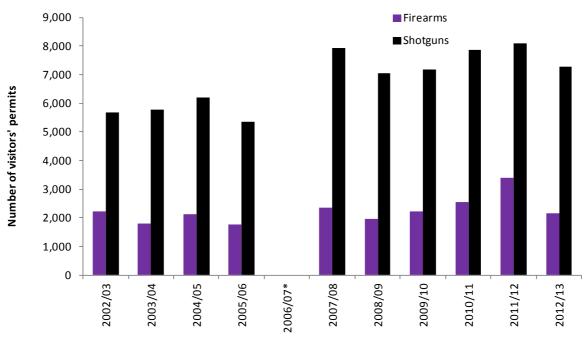


Figure 4 Visitors' permits, 2002/03 to 2012/13

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

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

(See Notes, paragraph 13)

The police began to issue EFPs in January 1993. At the end of March 2013, 14,818 EFPs were on issue in England and Wales (Table 11), an increase of 0.2% compared with the 14,792 EFPs on issue at the end of March 2012.³

During 2012/13, 11 applications for Article 7 Authorities were granted to certificate holders, compared with 14 during 2011/12 (Table 12).⁴

³ See Table 11 in <u>Firearm certificates 2011/12</u>

⁴ See Table 12 in Firearm certificates 2011/12

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 Home Office. They are subject to the measurement inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. To ensure the reliability of the 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. On 1 January 1995, the renewal cycle for both firearm and shotgun certificates changed from 3 to 5 years. Therefore it is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes for renewals. So, for example, an individual who was issued a firearm certificate in 1994 would have needed to have renewed 3 years later, in 1997. For certificates issued in 1995, the renewal would not be due until the year 2000. Therefore it is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes due to changes in the pattern of renewals in the late 1990s.
- 3. 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 3 years or more are prohibited from possessing firearms for life. Those sentenced to 3 months or more but less than 3 years are subject to a 5-year prohibition from the date of their release.
- 4. 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 2 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).
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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 2 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.

- 8. 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.
- 9. 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 5 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.
- 10. Section 13 of the 1988 Act increased the registration period for dealers from 1 to 3 years. The grounds for refusal of new applications for registration were extended and a register of transactions must be retained for at least 5 years.
- 11. 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 2 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

- 12. 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).
- 13. 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 2 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 1 Firearm certificates: applications, certificates on issue and firearms covered by certificates: 1971 and 1983 to 2012/13 1,2

Numbers Year			Applica	tions				Number of	nd and Wales
Tour	Nev	v application			val application	ons ³	Firearm certificates	firearms covered by	Average number of firearms per
	Granted	Refused	% refused	Granted	Refused	% refused	on issue	certificates on issue ⁴	certificate
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	-	-	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
2011/12	11,502	119	1.0	35,723	50	0.1	141,820	477,888	3.4
2012/13	10,077	138	1.4	28,696	54	0.2	146,426	498,048	3.4

^{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 3 years to 5 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, 2012/13; certificates on issue at 31 March 2013 by police force area

Police force area			Applica	ations				Fire	Number of firearms	Average	Number o
	New applications	lications	tions Renewal applications		Variation of certificate		Revocations	Firearm certficates on issue at	covered by certificates in	number of firearms per	firearms per 100,000
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		31 March	force at 31 March	certificate	people
Avon and Somerset	277	2	1,076	4	294	-	17	5,711	18,039	3	1,126
Bedfordshire	85	1	271	2	89	-	2	1,616	5,693	4	923
Cambridgeshire	215	3	585	-	178	-	4	2,927	8,629	3	1,070
Cheshire	140	3	496	-	109	-	8	2,711	8,498	3	826
Cleveland	63	-	189	-	57	-	-	1,049	3,183	3	571
Cumbria	168	1	729	-	133	1	3	3,427	10,740	3	2,149
Derbyshire	244	3	623	-	155	-	3	3,218	11,661	4	1,144
Devon and Cornwall	969	1	1,671	-	462	-	5	10,222	29,775	3	1,781
Dorset	251	-	582	-	121	-	8	3,338	10,831	3	1,453
Durham	190	5	598	4	189	-	30	2,562	8,269	3	1,337
Essex	333	2	961	3	307	-	16	5,045	18,309	4	1,059
Gloucestershire	135	-	546	-	146	-	5	2,562	8,667	3	1,449
Greater Manchester	175	3	322	-	156	-	9	2,203	9,395	4	350
Hampshire	255	4	1,168	3	258	1	13	5,227	17,632	3	927
Hertfordshire	138	3	418	-	123	1	2	2,328	11,248	5	1,004
Humberside	164	1	592	1	164	4	4	2,879	8,565	3	933
Kent	474	2	1,111	1	412	2	6	5,170	18,959	4	1,095
Lancashire	190	4	498	1	190	-	9	1,624	9,845	6	674
Leicestershire	165	-	419	-	101	1	-	2,246	7,599	3	746
Lincolnshire	281	2	1,043	-	219	-	10	4,055	11,629	3	1,627
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	17	9	229
Merseyside	67	-	173	1	67	-	1	950	3,863	4	280
Metropolitan Police	390	9	687	2	229	1	16	4,392	16,386	4	200
Norfolk	305	2	843	3	275	1	5	4,827	16,073	3	1,870
Northamptonshire	164	1	593	5	129	1	12	2,583	8,429	3	1,215
Northumbria	232	9	718	-	162	2	23	3,631	10,995	3	774
North Yorkshire	423	6	1,295	3	264	-	16	6,328	18,734	3	2,345
Nottinghamshire	97	6	405	5	98	-	7	1,916	7,305	4	670
South Yorkshire	155	1	349	-	130	-	3	1,939	7,081	4	527
Staffordshire	182	2	743	1	125	-	1	2,929	10,935	4	996
Suffolk	236	7	783	1	202	-	3	4,429	13,185	3	1,806
Surrey	205	2	520	1	176	-	4	2,912	11,147	4	982
Sussex	420	4	1,166	-	256	-	6	6,155	23,414	4	1,455
Thames Valley	340	3	1,154	2	267	1	17	6,449	22,454	3	987
Warwickshire	108	1	391	-	98	-	2	2,209	7,496	3	1,372
West Mercia	544	21	1,561	6	345	3		6,587	21,773	3	1,779
West Midlands	119	1	337	-	112	-	8	1,915	7,904	4	288
West Yorkshire	246	4	512	4	214	-	11	2,872	10,251	4	460
Wiltshire	227	4	592	1	185	-	8	3,239	10,826	3	1,583
Dyfed-Powys	317	9	871	-	117	-	11	3,969	12,933	3	2,512
Gwent	75	1	255	-	69	-	2	1,284	4,580	4	794
North Wales	153	2	492	-	103	-	5	2,698	7,659	3	1,113
South Wales	160	3	358	-	129	-	3	2,091	7,442	4	580
England and Wales	10,077	138								3	887

Table 3 Shotgun certificates: applications, certificates on issue and shotguns covered by certificates: 1971 and 1983 to 2012/13 ^{1,2}

Numbers								England	and Wales
Year			01	Number of	Average				
	Nev	w application	ıs	Renev	al application	ons ³	Shotgun certificates	shotguns covered by	number of shotguns
	Granted	Refused	% refused	Granted	Refused	% refused	on issue	certificates on issue ⁴	per certificate
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
2006/078									
2007/088	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
2011/12	31,254	651	2.0	137,278	191	0.1	562,696	1,328,647	2.4
2012/13	26,429	594	2.2	94,012	177	0.2	570,726	1,333,701	2.3

^{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 3 years to 5 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, 2012/13; certificates on issue at 31 March 2013 by police force area

Police force area		Applic	ations				Number of	Average Number	
. 0.100 10.00 0.00	New app			pplications	Revocations	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31	shotguns covered by certificates in	number of shotguns per certificate	shotguns pe 100,000 people
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	-	March	force at 31 March		
Avon and Somerset	792	6	3,107	2	81	20,835	45,120	2.2	2,817
Bedfordshire	280	11	988	2	17	6,478	15,053	2.3	2,439
Cambridgeshire	537	7	2,014	1	19	12,625	29,521	2.3	3,659
Cheshire	418	17	1,634	2	23	11,575	27,184	2.3	2,643
Cleveland	152	-	333	-	4	2,678	5,653	2.1	1,014
Cumbria	277	4	1,573	-	20	9,742	22,736	2.3	4,549
Derbyshire	635	6	1,905	-	19	12,170	28,875	2.4	2,832
Devon and Cornwall	1,396	11	4,656	2	10	30,987	68,462	2.2	4,096
Dorset	578	10	1,576	1	15	10,883	23,924	2.2	3,210
Durham	260	38	1,057	12	68	6,088	14,250	2.3	2,304
Essex	988	13	3,487	2	48	21,294	49,670	2.3	2,873
Gloucestershire	503	8	1,762	-	17	10,733	26,259	2.4	4,389
Greater Manchester	428	7	1,237	2	23	8,386	18,338	2.2	683
Hampshire	862	26	4,367	16	46	21,758	48,272	2.2	2,538
Hertfordshire	498	12	1,658	1	24	10,328	28,560	2.8	2,550
Humberside	382	16	1,490	7	28	9,788	24,310	2.5	2,648
Kent	1,354	18	4,884	2	26	21,568	49,799	2.3	2,876
Lancashire	675	24	1,804	6	27	11,787	28,104	2.4	1,923
Leicestershire	618	1	1,660	-	6	11,088	26,099	2.4	2,563
Lincolnshire	739	10	3,444	5	33	14,769	37,874	2.6	5,299
London, City of	6	-	5	-	-	32	47	1.5	634
Merseyside	139	3	595	1	4	3,491	7,532	2.2	545
Metropolitan Police	1,980	34	3,944	16	86	25,743	49,642	1.9	606
Norfolk	852	9	3,342	-	22	20,539	55,637	2.7	6,474
Northamptonshire	469	21	1,567	8	41	9,834	22,845	2.3	3,292
Northumbria	388	33	1,139	4	45	9,048	20,573	2.3	1,448
North Yorkshire	698	11	2,571	5	40	18,311	42,531	2.3	5,323
Nottinghamshire	368	26	1,687	11	38	8,454	20,438	2.4	1,874
South Yorkshire	427	15	1,303	3	22	8,443	18,635	2.2	1,387
Staffordshire	572	10	3,399	2	12	13,368	31,886	2.4	2,903
Suffolk	609	13	2,503	2	16	17,145	41,915	2.4	5,741
Surrey	766	4	2,032	2	18	13,050	28,398	2.2	2,501
Sussex	852	3	3,616	6	28	20,235	47,399	2.3	2,946
Thames Valley	1,253	21	3,951	11	65	27,756	65,625	2.4	2,884
Warwickshire	356	3	1,337	-	8	8,829	20,734	2.3	3,794
West Mercia	1,233	69	4,207	13	68	27,673	67,896	2.5	5,547
West Midlands	287	6	1,377	2	25	8,259	17,995	2.2	657
West Yorkshire	635	18	1,564	6	33	10,613	22,775	2.1	1,023
Wiltshire	658	8	1,859	4	22	12,990	28,699	2.2	4,196
Dyfed-Powys	640	25	2,972	11	44	16,069	43,534	2.7	8,454
Gwent	180	2	1,133	1	6	5,816	14,151	2.4	2,452
North Wales	372	8	2,014	-	18	12,042	29,084	2.4	4,225
South Wales	317	7	1,259	6	11	7,426	17,667	2.4	1,377
England and Wales	26,429	594	94,012	177	1,226	570,726	1,333,701	2.3	2,374

Table 5: Number of firearm and shotgun certificate revocations, 1992 to 2012/13

Numbers **England and Wales** Firearm certificates Shotgun certificates 1,163 1,133 1,084 1,003 2002/03 2003/04 2004/05 2005/06 2006/07 .. 2007/08¹ 2008/09 1,009 2009/10 1,076 2010/11 1,379 2011/12 1,301 2012/13 1,226

^{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 2012/13¹

Numbers				Englan	d and Wales				
Year	Applica	Applications for registration from dealers							
	Previously ur	nregistered	Previously i	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				
2011/12	665	7	636	1	3,417				
2012/13	538	14	518	3	3,496				

^{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, 2012/13; dealers registered at 31 March 2013 by police force area

Dealers registered at 31 March	Dealers removed from	registered	Applications certificates from dealer		New application	Police force area
o i maron	register	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	
102	9	-	14	-	18	Avon and Somerset
38	1	-	2	-	4	Bedfordshire
39	3	-	5	-	6	Cambridgeshire
43	-	-	8	-	4	Cheshire
21	-	-	3	-	3	Cleveland
44	13	-	10	-	5	Cumbria
82	6	-	34	-	15	Derbyshire
145	1	-	18	-	11	Devon and Cornwall
65	-	-	6	-	10	Dorset
34	-	-	7	-	3	Durham
127	1	-	22	-	9	Essex
38	1	1	3	-	2	Gloucestershire
62	-	-	9	-	4	Greater Manchester
108	1	-	16	2	15	Hampshire
65	2	-	16	-	5	Hertfordshire
56	-	-	10	-	1	Humberside
118	3	1	26	1	16	Kent
25	1	-	7	-	5	Lancashire
110	36	-	5	-	86	Leicestershire
78	-	-	16	1	13	Lincolnshire
-	-	-	-	-	-	London, City of
9	-	-	3	1	1	Merseyside
196	4	-	23	4	25	Metropolitan Police
61 49	- 1	-	12 12	-	10 5	Norfolk Northamptonshire
	·					·
54	-	-	8	-	1	Northumbria
87	2	-	11	-	14	North Yorkshire
103	19	-	9	-	3	Nottinghamshire
38 111	2	-	5 6	-	7 19	South Yorkshire Staffordshire
70	C		45		7	Cuffelle
79 180	6	-	15 23	-	7 39	Suffolk
123	-	-	23 17	-	39 11	Surrey Sussex
250	5	<u>-</u>	39	-	17	Thames Valley
196	5	-	7	-	65	Warwickshire
147	_	1	38	3	12	West Mercia
90	1	-	10	-	14	West Midlands
59	7	-	10	1	7	West Yorkshire
91	2	-	20	-	12	Wiltshire
53	5	-	5	1	9	Dyfed-Powys
36	5	-	4	-	13	Gwent
46	2	-	3	-	5	North Wales
38	2	-	1	-	7	South Wales
3,496	149	3	518	14	538	England and Wales

Table 8 Visitors' permits, 1995 to 2012/13¹

England and Wales Numbers Total persons covered ² Year Firearm certificates Shotgun certificates 1995 1,960 5,850 1996 2,400 7,120 6,570 1997 2,100 7,140 1998 2,350 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 2006/07³ 2007/08 2,345 7,930 2008/09 1,974 7,035 2009/10 2,209 7,186 2010/11 2,559 7,856 2011/12 3,399 8,075 2012/13 7,262 2,150

^{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, 2012/13

Police force area		New appli	cations		Total of persons	Variation applications	
	On behalf of	individuals	Group app	olications	covered		
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	-	Granted	Refused
Avon and Somerset	71	_	2	_	85	_	-
Bedfordshire	15	-	-	_	15	_	_
Cambridgeshire	17	_	_	_	17	_	_
Cheshire	2	-	-	_	2	_	_
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	17	-	_	-	17	_	-
Derbyshire	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	27	_	_	_	27	_	_
Dorset	128	_	_	_	128	_	_
Durham	21	-	-	-	21	-	-
Essex	30	_	_	_	30	_	_
Gloucestershire	13	_	_	_	13	_	_
Greater Manchester	8	_	_	_	8	_	_
Hampshire	114	_	1	_	125	_	_
Hertfordshire	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Humberside	15	_	_	_	15	_	_
Kent	57	_	_	_	75	_	_
Lancashire	25	_	2	_	40	_	_
Leicestershire	23	_	-	_	23	_	_
Lincolnshire	15	-	-	-	15	-	-
London, City of	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Merseyside	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Metropolitan Police	276	_	14	_	366	_	_
Norfolk	62	_	-	_	62	_	_
Northamptonshire	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Northumbria	41	_	_	_	41	_	_
North Yorkshire	34	_	2	_	51	_	_
Nottinghamshire	_	_	-	_	_	_	_
South Yorkshire	4	-	-	_	4	-	_
Staffordshire	33	-	2	-	39	-	-
Suffolk	70	_	2	_	83	_	-
Surrey	134	-	30	_	473	-	-
Sussex	70	-	1	_	79	-	-
Thames Valley	92	-	1	-	102	-	-
Warwickshire	30	-	-	-	30	-	-
West Mercia	23	-	_	-	23	_	-
West Midlands	13	-	-	-	13	-	-
West Yorkshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wiltshire	103	-	-	-	103	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	6	-	-	-	6	-	-
Gwent	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
North Wales	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
England and Wales	1,608		57		2,150		

Table 10 Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area, 2012/13

Numbers						England	and Wales	
Police force area		New appl	ications		Total of persons covered	Variation applications		
	On behalf of	findividuals	Group app	olications	covered			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		Granted	Refused	
Avon and Somerset	166	_	5	_	214	_	_	
Bedfordshire	139	_	4	_	161	_	_	
Cambridgeshire	68	_	2	_	85	_	_	
Cheshire	45	-	1	-	52	-	_	
Cleveland	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	
Cumbria	146	-	_	-	146	-	-	
Derbyshire	17	_	1	_	23	-	_	
Devon and Cornwall	184	-	9	-	248	-	-	
Dorset	122	_	-	_	122	_	_	
Durham	54	-	1	-	60	-	-	
Essex	137	_	7	_	167	_	-	
Gloucestershire	88	_	2	_	102	_	_	
Greater Manchester	25	_	1	_	31	-	_	
Hampshire	491	-	27	-	649	-	-	
Hertfordshire	29	-	-	-	29	-	-	
Humberside	67	-	3	-	82	-	-	
Kent	198	-	9	-	296	-	-	
Lancashire	28	-	2	-	42	-	-	
Leicestershire	93	-	8	-	140	-	-	
Lincolnshire	171	-	1	-	180	-	-	
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Merseyside	34	-	1	-	43	-	-	
Metropolitan Police	247	1	3	-	271	-	-	
Norfolk	235	-	6	-	265	-	-	
Northamptonshire	60	-	3	-	76	-	-	
Northumbria	319	-	10	-	392	-	-	
North Yorkshire	251	-	14	-	355	-	-	
Nottinghamshire	11	-	-	-	11	-	-	
South Yorkshire	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	
Staffordshire	30	-	1	-	36	-	-	
Suffolk	205	-	7	_	246	_	_	
Surrey	389	_	37	_	641	-	_	
Sussex	228	_	12	_	318	-	_	
Thames Valley	742	-	37	-	848	-	-	
Warwickshire	71	-	2	-	86	-	-	
West Mercia	192	-	8	-	239	-	-	
West Midlands	18	-	-	-	18	-	-	
West Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	
Wiltshire	355	-	16	-	424	-	-	
Dyfed-Powys	33	-	1	-	39	-	-	
Gwent	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	
North Wales	80	-	3	-	106	-	-	
South Wales	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	
England and Wales	5,787	1	244	-	7,262	-	-	

Table 11 European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and cancellations during 2012/13; passes on issue at 31 March 2013, by police force area

Table 12 Article 7 Authorities: applications for grant, variations and cancellations, by police force area, 2012/13

Numbers **England and Wales** Police force area Applications Variations Cancellations By non-certificate For possession By certificate holders For ammunition only holders outside UK Granted Refused Granted Refused Granted Refused Granted Refused Avon and Somerset 1 Bedfordshire 1 1 Cambridgeshire Cheshire Cleveland Cumbria Derbyshire **Devon and Cornwall** Dorset Durham Essex Gloucestershire **Greater Manchester** Hampshire Hertfordshire Humberside 1 1 2 Kent Lancashire Leicestershire Lincolnshire London, City of Merseyside Metropolitan Police Norfolk Northamptonshire Northumbria North Yorkshire Nottinghamshire South Yorkshire Staffordshire 1 1 Suffolk Surrey Sussex 1 1 6 3 Thames Valley 3 Warwickshire West Mercia West Midlands 1 1 West Yorkshire Wiltshire Dyfed-Powys Gwent North Wales South Wales 9 7 **England and Wales** 11 1