



30 June 2016

Statistical News Release: Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales, financial year ending 31 March 2016

The Home Office published today the latest National Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates in England and Wales.

The statistics cover certificates on issue as at 31 March 2016, as well as historical trend data and police force comparisons. The statistical release also provides information on the number of certificates granted and refused for new and renewal applications, certificates revoked, registered firearm dealers, visitors' permits, European firearm passes (EFP) and Article 7 Authorities issued. Following user feedback, the release also contains new experimental statistics on the number of people who hold a firearm and/or a shotgun certificate broken down by age and gender; and a breakdown of firearm and shotgun types.

Data extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) on firearm and shotgun certificates issued by police forces in England and Wales show that:

Firearm certificates

- there were 153,404 firearm certificates as at 31 March 2016; a decrease of 0.1% (-199) compared with the previous year.
- there were 539,194 firearms (covered by firearm certificates) as at 31 March 2016; an increase of 2.7% (14,069) compared with the previous year.
- of the 9,755 new applications for firearm certificates in the year to 31 March 2016, 97.7% (9,534) were granted and 2.3% (221) were refused.
- a total of 396 firearms certificates were revoked in the year to 31 March 2016; a decrease of 2.5% (-10) compared with the previous year.

Shotgun certificates

- there were 567,015 shotgun certificates as at 31 March 2016; a decrease of 2.7% (-15,479) compared with the previous year.
- there were 1,331,563 shotguns (covered by shotgun certificates) as at 31 March 2016; a decrease of 0.5% (-6,836) compared with the previous year.
- of the 22,596 new applications for shotgun certificates in the year to 31 March 2016, 96.8% (21,884) were granted and 3.2% (712) were refused.

- a total of 1,349 shotgun certificates were revoked in the year to 31 March 2016; a decrease of 1.7% (-24) compared with the previous year.

Experimental statistics

- as at 1 April 2016, 587,681 people held a firearm and/or shotgun certificate, 153,168 people held a firearm certificate and 566,085 people held a shotgun certificate.
- of the 1,870,757 firearms and shotguns (covered by firearm/shotgun certificates) as at 31 March 2016, 8.9% (166,115) were sound moderators^{1, 2, 3}.

Notes to editors

1. Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales, financial year ending 31 March 2016 is available online at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/firearm-certificates-in-england-and-wales>.

Press enquiries

Journalists with enquiries can call the Home Office news desk on 020 7035 3535.

The desk operates from 7am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

If you are not a member of the media, please use the Home Office public enquiries line: 020 7035 4848.

Press office out of hours number: 07659 174240. Only urgent media calls will be attended to.

¹ Sound moderators are mainly separate accessories which diminish the noise caused by a firing weapon.

² Calculation is based on the number of sound moderators as at 1 April 2016.

³ Analyses from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) suggest that around 96% of the 166,115 sound moderators were separate accessories recorded under the other firearms/shotguns category. The remaining 4% were mainly recorded under rifles, section 2 shotguns, and section 1 shotguns, which are likely to have integrated sound moderators. Therefore, the sound moderator figures will also include a small proportion of firearms/shotguns which discharge ammunition.