



24 September 2015

Statistical News Release: Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales, financial year ending 31 March 2015

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 2015, 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.

Firearms Certificates:

- There were 153,603 firearm certificates on issue as at 31 March 2015, an increase of 1.4% (2,190) compared with the previous year's figure, and the highest number since 1988.
- There were 525,125 firearms covered by such certificates, an increase of 3.4% (17,258) compared with the previous year's figure, and the highest number since these figures first became available in 1995.
- There were 9,053 new firearm certificate applications granted in the year to 31 March 2015, an increase of 1.4% (123) compared with the previous year's figure.
- Of the new applications for firearm certificates in the year to 31 March 2015 (9,241), 2.0% (188) were refused. This compares with 1.5% (140) which were refused in the previous year.
- A total of 406 firearm certificates were revoked in the year to 31 March 2015, an increase of 1.0% (4) compared with the previous year's figure.
- There were 3,422 registered firearm dealers as at 31 March 2015, a decrease of 1.8% (-64) compared with the previous year's figure. The number of firearm dealers also includes any business that sells or transfers shotguns.

Shotgun Certificates:

- There were 582,494 shotgun certificates on issue as at 31 March 2015, a decrease of 0.1% (-429) compared with the previous year's figure.
- There were 1,338,399 shotguns covered by such certificates, an increase of 0.7% (9,023) compared with the previous year's figure and the highest number since the year ending 31 March 2010.

- There were 21,438 new shotgun certificate applications granted in the year to 31 March 2015, a decrease of 9.5% (-2,242) compared with the previous year's figure.
- Of the new applications for shotgun certificates in the year to 31 March 2015, (22,067), 2.9% (629) were refused. This compares with 2.8% (675) which were refused in the previous year.
- A total of 1,373 shotgun certificates were revoked in the year to 31 March 2015, a decrease of 0.3% (-4) compared with the previous year's figure.

Notes to editors

1. Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales, financial year ending 31 March 2015 is available online at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/firearm-certificates-in-england-and-wales>.

Press enquiries

For media enquiries, please call the Home Office newsdesk on 020 7035 3535.

This line operates Monday to Friday, 7am to 8pm. Urgent calls outside these hours can be made to a pager service on 07659 174 240.

The Home Office press office only deals with enquiries from the media.

Other enquiries

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