



6 July 2017

Statistical News Release: Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales, financial year ending 31 March 2017

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 2017, as well as historical trend data and police force comparisons. The statistical release 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. It also includes experimental statistics on the number of people who hold a firearm certificate and/or shotgun certificate, broken down by age and gender, and breakdowns 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 154,958 firearm certificates as at 31 March 2017; an increase of 1% (1,554) compared with the previous year;
- there were 559,302 firearms (covered by firearm certificates) as at 31 March 2017; an increase of 4% (20,108) compared with the previous year;
- there were 9,825 new applications for firearm certificates in the year to 31 March 2017, of which 98% (9,620) were granted and 2% (205) were refused;
- a total of 358 firearms certificates were revoked in the year to 31 March 2017; a decrease of 10% (-38) compared with the previous year;

Shotgun certificates

- there were 561,413 shotgun certificates as at 31 March 2017; a decrease of 1% (-5,602) compared with the previous year;
- there were 1,349,099 shotguns (covered by shotgun certificates) as at 31 March 2017; an increase of 1% (17,536) compared with the previous year;
- there were 23,718 new applications for shotgun certificates in the year to 31 March 2017, 98% (23,128) were granted and 2% (590) were refused;
- a total of 1,216 shotgun certificates were revoked in the year to 31 March 2017; a decrease of 10% (-133) compared with the previous year.

Experimental statistics

As at 31 March 2017:

- 580,658 people held a firearm certificate and/or a shotgun certificate; a decrease of 1% (-7,023) compared with the previous year;
- 154,767 people held a firearm certificate; an increase of 1% (1,599) compared with the previous year;
- 559,849 people held a shotgun certificate; a decrease of 1% (-6,236) compared with the previous year;
- of the 559,302 firearms covered by firearm certificates, 30% (166,638) were sound moderators¹.

Notes to editors

1. Firearm and Shotgun Certificates in England and Wales, financial year ending 31 March 2017 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.