



## Chapter 13: Good reason to possess a firearm

### 13.1 This chapter:

- sets out the issues that chief officers will wish to consider in assessing “good reason” in individual cases; and
- advises on the more common “good reasons” that the Home Office would consider proper for the possession of particular firearms and ammunition.
- sets out the guiding principles governing the definition of a “good reason” to possess a firearm.

The guiding principle behind the requirement to have a “good reason” to possess, purchase or acquire firearms or ammunition, is that firearms are dangerous weapons and the state has a duty to protect the public from their misuse. In general, applicants should be able to demonstrate that they ‘use’ their firearm on a regular, legitimate basis for work, sport or leisure (including collections or research).

## Introduction

13.2 Under section 27(1)(b) of the 1968 Act, firearm certificates shall be granted by chief officers of police if they are satisfied that applicants have a “good reason” for having in their possession, or for purchasing or acquiring, the firearm or ammunition in respect of which applications are made and that in all the circumstances the applicants can be permitted to have the firearm or ammunition in their possession without danger to the public safety or to the peace. Apart from assessing fitness to possess firearms, “good reason” is one of the most substantial and complex areas of discretion that chief officers may exercise in licensing firearms. It is therefore imperative that any decision to refuse on grounds of “good reason” must be reasonable.

13.3 This guidance is not exhaustive. Chief officers of police will encounter cases not covered here where they may properly judge that “good reason” is proven. Each case must be judged on its own merits, being mindful of the consistent administration of the Acts and the need to provide fair and equitable treatment to all applicants, while maintaining the duty to protect the public from firearm misuse.

13.4 Apart from having a “good reason” in principle, an applicant’s reasons for owning firearms should be genuine. Equally, any reason to refuse an application must be clearly justified and explained. Chief officers of police should exercise caution in dealing with cases where the applicant presents a nominal reason for possessing firearms but may have ulterior motives. The police will be expected to make reasonable inquiries to verify the applicant’s “good reason” for the possession of firearms. This may include:

- a request for written authorities where relevant (and possible).
- verification of the likelihood of the quarry species being present.

- the suitability of land for the firearms requested commensurate with the applicant's experience.
- their authority to shoot on the land; and.
- in the case of target shooters, verification of club membership and shooting activities.
- In the case of collectors; activity, including academic research, membership of recognised bodies etc.

13.5 An intention to acquire a firearm certificate, with the attendant privileges and responsibilities, should generally involve a genuine intent to use the firearms concerned regularly (depending on the type of firearm and the opportunities to use it) or a "good reason" of similar substance. Failure to use a firearm or failure to acquire one by the end of the certificate's life may be cause for further inquiry as to the applicant's intentions, (but see paragraph 13.53 and sections on firearms of historical importance, collections and trophies of war).

13.6 "Good reason" should be neither confined to need nor equated with desire. Most firearm certificate holders possess firearms for reasons of their profession, sport, collectors or recreation, and may properly wish to exercise discretion as to what types of firearms they choose for these purposes. On the other hand, a simple wish to own a particular sort of firearm is not in itself "good reason" without further supporting evidence of intentions. Chief officers of police should be mindful of case law (*Anderson v Neilans* (1940) and *Joy v Chief Constable of Dumfries and Galloway* (1966)) which suggests that the chief officer should consider the application firstly "from the standpoint of the applicant rather than from that of a possible objector". "Good reason" will need to be demonstrated for each firearm to be held under section 1 of the 1968 Act.

13.7 With the exception of the limits set by the Deer Acts (for more information see chapter 14) and similar legislation, the suggested calibres for different quarry species are intended as examples of the typical range of calibres used rather than prescriptive limits. In most cases there will be a range of broadly similar commercial calibres suitable for different quarry (see paragraph 13.8 for definition of this term for the purposes of this guidance).

## Quarry shooting, including shooting pest species (vermin) and other shooting over land

13.8 'Quarry' is the general term for live animals (including birds) shot over land. In this context, 'land' means an area to be shot over, for example, a woodland, moorland, heath, wetland, foreshore, open water or field. Firearm certificate holders may wish to use firearms to shoot deer, game, pest or other quarry species. Calibres authorised should have sufficient muzzle energy to ensure a clean kill of the quarry species concerned.

13.9 A certificate holder may shoot any quarry that is lawful, (where they are authorised to shoot). Whilst guidance is provided, it is the responsibility of the shooter and the shooting community to know what calibre is suitable for which quarry, and when certain quarry is lawful (including the need to obtain or rely upon a licence from the relevant licensing authority to permit the shooting of protected species). Once initial "good reason" has been established for the possession of a firearm, there is no requirement for "good reason" to be demonstrated for additional quarry species or amendments providing the firearms are not underpowered for the species (see also paragraph 13.17). A cartridge should be capable of achieving a humane kill, and it is the responsibility of the shooter to ensure that any excess energy will be absorbed by the backstop. The "any other lawful quarry" condition (which also covers protected species that the certificate holder is licensed to shoot) should be applied. If an applicant is suitable to hold a firearm certificate and is deemed safe to do so, there is no requirement to restrict the quarry they shoot by the use of conditions.

A person wishing to shoot over land should nominate in their application a specific area of land over which they intend to or have permission to shoot (this does not restrict their ability to shoot elsewhere where permission is also given), and provide written authority, where possible, from the person entitled to grant the shooting rights. The land may then be examined and approved by the police (if it is not already known to be suitable) in order to help to establish that the “good reason” requirement has been fully met, and that the use of firearms and ammunition will not endanger public safety or the peace (section 27(1)(c) of the 1968 Act).

- 13.10 The land need not be owned or rented by the applicant, nor need they have regular or automatic access to it. Farmers and landowners may allow shooters to shoot on their land, for payment or otherwise, on a formal or informal basis. An applicant need not always nominate a piece of land as evidence of “good reason”, but in such cases the applicant may be required, where possible, to provide written evidence, for example from a relevant organisation, a professional pest controller, gamekeeper or of a booking to shoot.
- 13.11 It is accepted that land is not intrinsically “safe” or “unsafe” and that any shooter will have to exercise a strong measure of discretion in deciding whether to shoot in particular circumstances. However, the police will wish to be satisfied as part of “good reason” that the land nominated is not clearly unsuitable for the types of firearms to be used. The land inspection is intended only as part of the process of verifying that a “good reason” exists. It should not normally be extended to other areas of land on which the applicant intends to shoot unless there is to be a condition restricting a new shooter to specified land only. An inspection, where it is required, may provide a good opportunity to confirm that the applicant understands the characteristics of the land and the best places to shoot safely on it.
- 13.12 The applicant’s knowledge of safe shooting is also very important and they should therefore, where possible, be present when the inspection takes place. This will give applicants the opportunity to confirm that they are aware of any potential hazards and know that no shot must ever be fired from a rifle unless there is a safe backstop. Some of the issues that the police will need to consider in relation to all the circumstances of the specific application are:
- a) Presence of rights of way, public roads and footpaths and their frequency of use;
  - b) Proximity of dwellings;
  - c) Suitable backstops relevant to the firearm to be used (also important with a shotgun when using section 1 ammunition);
  - d) General topography of the land; and
  - e) Presence of any quarry species on the land (see paragraphs 13.9, 13.15 and 13.16 for guidance).
- 13.13 A person whose certificate is to be conditioned to allow shooting only on land approved by the chief officer of police, should be able to establish whether an area of land has been approved for that type and calibre of firearm by contacting their local police firearms licensing department. It is expected that in only a small number of cases will it be necessary to inspect the land.
- 13.14 When land inspections are required, the knowledge of local shooters, stalkers, gamekeepers etc. may be drawn upon. This is particularly important in cases of doubt. Decisions to refuse approval on public safety grounds should not be based on the assessment of a police employee with little or no experience in such matters and the views of those experienced in the field use of firearms should be sought before final decisions are made.

- 13.15 When land inspections are required, the police may consult people with necessary expertise in shooting or knowledge of the land in question, as well as local shooters, stalkers and gamekeepers. This is particularly important in cases of doubt. Shooting organisations are also able to assist with detailed information about the practical applications of rifle/cartridge combinations.
- 13.16 “Good reason” to possess particular firearms will generally be linked to the quarry species found on the land concerned. However, conditions for the possession of such firearms may allow the certificate holder to deal with reasonable eventualities, for example, pest or game species or the humane destruction of injured animals on the estate. The Pests Act 1954 (see relevant section in chapter 14) can be used to impose a duty with financial penalties on occupiers of land to control rabbits on their land. Under the Animals Act 1971 section 9, a person may, under certain specified circumstances, shoot a dog found worrying sheep, cattle or other livestock. Protection of livestock may constitute the ‘good reason’ for possessing a rifle for some farmers or others involved in animal husbandry (see also chapter 14). Although not stipulated in law, a shotgun may be used where dogs worrying sheep and other livestock are to be killed. Where the use of a rifle for these purposes is cited as “good reason”, DEFRA advise that calibres suitable for small deer would be appropriate.
- 13.17 The table at the end of this chapter provides guidance on whether, **for the purposes of establishing “good reason”**, a particular calibre is suitable for shooting certain quarry. It should be noted that the list of calibres is not exhaustive but will serve as a useful guide
- 13.18 ‘Yes’ indicates that the calibre is suitable for the purpose, and pursuit of such quarry would normally be a “good reason” to possess such a rifle. ‘No’ indicates that the calibre and muzzle energy is unsuitable, unlawful or inhumane, and pursuit of such a quarry would not therefore be a “good reason” to possess such a rifle. This, however, should not exclude the use of a larger or more powerful firearm, for which “good reason” has been established, to shoot smaller quarry (see 13.9). In some cases an applicant will want to possess two similar weapons for the same category of use, for example, where an employer requires the applicant to use a weapon for official purposes but the applicant also wants to hold one for personal use (for example, deerstalking). Chief officers of police should also note that many animals (including many birds) are protected by law (see chapter 14). Licensing officers will also wish to have regard to other paragraphs in this chapter which offer more detailed guidance in relation to specific quarry.

## Shooting Small Quarry Species, including Game and Pest Species (Vermin)

- 13.19 The term “game” covers certain birds and animals that may be shot for food and sport. These include pheasant, partridge, grouse, ptarmigan and ground game (rabbits and hares). The term “vermin” is not defined in law, but it may include species that cause damage to crops, game, livestock or property such as fox, rabbits, mink, stoat, weasel, brown rat, and grey squirrel; as well as some birds, such as wood pigeon and corvids such as rook and crow. Whilst species including wood pigeon and corvids are regarded as pests or vermin, they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and therefore can only be shot under the relevant general licence. It is important to note that animals such as deer, wild boar etc are not viewed as vermin. Under schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, certain species such as wild cats, pine martens, badgers and otters may not be shot with any automatic or semi-automatic firearm, or killed, or taken by other prohibited methods under section 11(2) of the 1981 Act. These species may be pests

under certain circumstances but may only be killed under licence (see also chapter 14). Guidance on foxes can be found in paragraphs 13.25 and 13.26.

- 13.20 Although not set out in legislation, the rifle cartridges most commonly used to shoot ground game and vermin are .17 rimfire (HMR & Mach 2) and .22 rimfire. More powerful centre-fire cartridges, such as .17 Remington and .22 Hornet are also suitable for ground game and vermin, and may be considered if the applicant also intends to shoot fox to avoid possession of a further gun. Expanding ammunition may be granted for shooting vermin.
- 13.21 Self-loading shotguns ('semi-automatic' is defined in section 27 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as capable of holding more than two rounds in the magazine and applies only to large magazine shotguns (and .22RF)) may be used to shoot certain pest species under the terms of a licence from either Natural England, Scottish National Heritage, or the Natural Resource Wales but is applicable to avian species only. Large-magazine shotguns may be required to deal with serious pest problems with wood pigeon or corvids (rooks and crows). It is acceptable for self-loading shotguns to be used for mammal pest species including rabbits and squirrels. Once "good reason" is established for avian vermin control, shotguns of this kind may be allowed for taking other small vermin (including mammals such as squirrels and rabbits).
- 13.22 'Specially dangerous' air rifles in calibres from .177 to .25 operating at over 12 foot pounds and therefore subject to certification are often used for vermin control and for the shooting of small game when an applicant wishes to use a firearm less powerful than the .22 rimfire. The same conditions apply to air rifles as any other rifle authorised for quarry shooting.
- 13.23 Section 4 of the 1997 Act allows the possession, purchasing, acquiring, selling or transferring of shot pistols in calibres .410 and 9mm rimfire, provided that such a pistol is subject to a condition that it is only for use in connection with the shooting of vermin (see Appendix 3 for the exact wording of the condition which covers these circumstances). This exemption was intended mainly for pest controllers who may need to use a firearm of this kind in farm buildings, farmyards and similar areas where use of a conventional shotgun would be inappropriate, for example, barns, fruit cages or near release pens.
- 13.24 Those involved in shooting vermin will normally be authorised to possess up to 750 rounds. Expanding ammunition may be authorised for this purpose. However, larger allocations may be required in some circumstances, perhaps for individuals who are responsible for pest control over large areas of land or where there are serious infestations, for example of rabbits. In such cases, it may be appropriate to authorise the individual to possess up to 1,500 rounds. These amounts are only guides and should not be seen as absolute limits to be applied in all cases. An applicant who is responsible for a lot of pest control may reasonably want two rifles firing the same, or a closely allied cartridge.

Chief officers of police will wish to be mindful that quarry species are mobile and applicants may not be able to always predict their presence on land on a consistent basis. Certificate conditions should therefore allow the applicant flexibility in dealing with quarry species, and the 'any other lawful quarry' condition may be used. However, where a particular quarry forms the basis of the applicant's "good reason" its likely presence will need to be confirmed (see paragraph 13.15 and 13.16 for guidance).

## Fox

13.25 Although not set out in legislation, common rifle cartridges considered suitable for the shooting of foxes range from .17 Remington, and .22 Hornet to .22 -250 and .220 Swift, though there is a wide range of suitable similar calibres commercially available. In windy areas, where heavier bullets aid accurate shooting, or if applicants wish to use one rifle for shooting both deer and foxes, they may choose a rifle in 6mm (.243/.244) or 6.5mm (.264) calibre.

.22 Rimfires are generally considered as having insufficient muzzle energy to be used against foxes in most circumstances. However, these could be suitable for use at short range by experienced persons, and may be permitted in certain situations such as around farm buildings or paddocks. It is for the operator to ensure that the quarry species are shot at the appropriate range with the appropriate ammunition to achieve a humane kill. Combination shotgun/rifles should have the rifled barrel in a similar calibre. Expanding ammunition should be authorised for shooting foxes.

Those involved in shooting foxes will normally be authorised to possess up to 250 rounds, but consideration should be given to each shooter's individual circumstances, particularly where re-loaders are acquiring missiles. See also paragraph 13.9 on allowing the applicant flexibility to reasonably shoot other species on named land.

13.26 It is desirable that new applicants should have some previous experience of the safe use of firearms before using such rifles. Experience is neither cartridge nor ammunition type exclusive. It may include the shooting of any quarry species. The aspect that police are looking to be satisfied about is the competency of the applicant to take a safe shot every time. The shooting of any quarry requires a safe backstop for the shot, and such experience is transferable between quarry species.

## Wild/feral animals

13.27 Authority may be requested to shoot animals which fall outside the scope of usual types of game or vermin, for example feral goat or wild boar. The type of rifle authorised should be appropriate to the quarry species, The Deer Initiative recommends a rifle of not less than .270 for wild boar. For feral goats, Defra advise the use of a minimum calibre of .243 with a bullet weight of 100 grains to be humane. However, individual bullet weights should not be stipulated on certificates. Expanding ammunition should be authorised for this purpose.

13.28 Hunting potentially dangerous animals, such as wild boar, with larger calibre rifles requires particular skill, and applicants should generally have experience of firearms. Applicants should put forward specific named land and a request or authority from the owner/occupier to shoot the species concerned.

## Seals

13.29 Under the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, seals may be shot by fishermen and others to prevent damage to fishing nets or fishing tackle, provided that at the time the seal was in the vicinity of the net or tackle. Seals may also be shot to prevent damage to fisheries under licences issued by Natural England (for rivers only), the Marine Management Organisation, the Welsh Government, or the Scottish Government (see section 10 of the 1970 Act). No firearm may be used except a rifle using ammunition with a muzzle energy of greater than 600 foot pounds and a bullet weight of not less than 45 grains (see section

1 of the Act). This equates to at least a .22 Hornet centrefire rifle using 45 grain, although this cartridge is, at best, only marginally humane. More information on this subject can be found within chapter 14.

## Deer

- 13.30 The shooting of deer is governed by the Deer Acts, which require that deer be shot with rifle cartridges of particular muzzle energy and, in Scotland, muzzle velocity and bullet weight (see chapter 14 for further detail). The Deer Act 1991 (as amended) requires that “soft nosed or hollow nosed” (expanding) ammunition, or in the case of Scotland ammunition “designed to deform in a predictable manner”, must be used for shooting deer. Deer stalkers will normally be authorised to possess up to 250 rounds of ammunition but account should be taken of individual circumstances, for example where re-loaders are acquiring missiles or where the shooter is a professional deer stalker.
- 13.31 Suitable calibres for shooting deer range from the .243 to .45-70. The .243 is legal for all species of deer found in the UK, however, for the larger species (Red, Sika & Fallow) .270 and larger calibres are generally more suitable. For shooting Muntjac & Chinese Water Deer in England and Wales, a rifle with a calibre of not less than .220 inches and a muzzle energy of not less than 1,000 foot pounds using a soft or hollow nosed bullet of not less than 50 grains can be used. Practically the .222 Remington is the smallest of the .22 centre fire cartridges which can legally be used for this purpose. See paragraph 13.34 for information about legislative requirements for the shooting of deer in Scotland.
- 13.32 An applicant who wishes to shoot deer should name land which has the likelihood of the appropriate deer species being present, and an invitation, booking or authority to shoot. This is not necessary where a person already holds a deer legal rifle for an established reason. Many deer stalkers will rely on invitations to shoot on payment rather than be hired or paid to do so and may not be able to shoot regularly or frequently, though others may be permanently employed, for example, Forestry Commission staff. Hunting large animals with powerful rifles requires particular skill, and applicants should generally have some experience of firearms.
- 13.33 The Deer Act also authorises the use of smooth-bore guns of at least 12 bore or a cartridge purporting to contain AAA shot for shooting deer, firing a non-spherical projectile of at least 350 grains to kill deer on cultivated land, pasture or enclosed woodland if it can be shown that the deer were causing serious damage to crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or other property, that such damage was likely to continue and be serious in nature and that action was needed to prevent this. This provision was intended to allow authorised persons (namely, but not restricted to, farmers and crofters) who own a shotgun but not a rifle to deal with marauding deer. Shotguns for use with solid slug should be cylinder bored and fitted with sights, if available. Solid slug is section 1 ammunition and so a firearm certificate is needed for possession and use. A suitable rifle would be more appropriate for a regular need to control deer.

## Scotland

- 13.34 The legislative requirements for the shooting of deer in Scotland are based on the performance of the ammunition, not the calibre of the rifle. Ammunition must be “designed to deform in a predictable manner”. Article 3 of the Deer (Firearms etc.) (Scotland) Order 1985 makes different provisions for the shooting of Roe deer in Scotland. A calibre is not stipulated but the bullet weight must be not less than 50 grains, the muzzle velocity not

less than 2,450 feet per second and the muzzle energy of more than 1,000 foot pounds. In practical terms, this means a calibre of .222 or greater, rather than the .240 or greater for shooting Roe deer required in England and Wales. For deer in Scotland other than Roe, bullets of not less than 100 grains, and a muzzle velocity of not less than 2,450 feet per second and a muzzle energy of not less than 1,750 foot pounds are all required. The 1985 Order also allows the use of a shotgun in certain limited circumstances, but for land management reasons only. Closed seasons are also different in Scotland (see chapter 14). Otherwise the general comments on deer stalking above apply.

## Overseas use

- 13.35 Individuals going overseas may wish to hunt animals not found in this country and wish to acquire firearms for this purpose. This may include, for example, big game or dangerous game animals such as elephant, Cape buffalo, lion or leopard; or plains game, such as various species of antelope.
- 13.36 Rifles for this purpose may include bolt-action or double-barrelled rifles of various calibres, often very large and of high (4,000-5,000 foot pounds) muzzle energies. These might include .375 H&H Magnum for Plains Game, calibres between .375 H&H Magnum and .600 for Big Game, .300 Winchester or greater for bear, and 9.3mm x 74R for boar.
- 13.37 The police will wish to be satisfied that an applicant has genuine intentions to use such rifles abroad, though such visits may be infrequent. Zeroing and practicing with non-expanding ammunition may be permitted in the UK, providing a suitable range or land is available. Those who home-load their non-expanding ammunition for such zeroing will also need to test and chronograph it. Some rifles intended for antelope and other plains game may also be suitable for deer, boar or other quarry shooting in this country. Once initial "good reason" has been established for a rifle in shooting "dangerous game", it may also be considered for shooting the larger deer species and boar in Britain. Expanding ammunition may (must in the case of deer) also be authorised for an applicant whose certificate allows for the rifle also to be used for shooting deer or boar in Britain. Where a shooter experiences difficulties in obtaining "dangerous game" cartridges in the country where that game is to be hunted, arrangements can be made for a dealer to export an appropriate quantity which can be collected by the shooter at the point of embarkation. Individuals may be authorised expanding or non-expanding ammunition in line with typical amounts authorised for use in firearms for target and quarry shooting.

## Humane Killing of Animals

- 13.38 The humane killing of sick, injured or lawfully trapped animals with a firearm is normally confined to those who may deal with such animals on a fairly regular basis. Examples would include veterinary surgeons, RSPCA inspectors, hunt servants, and occupiers of farms and smallholdings. Once such a firearm certificate is granted, the holder is able to use the firearm for the humane killing of any animal should the need arise, subject to any conditions on the certificate. The holder may also use a shotgun when appropriate. Rifles of any centrefire calibre may be suitable for this work. For revolvers and slaughtering instruments under section 3 of the 1997 Act, it is suggested a .32 single (or two) shot revolver is suitable for most circumstances, though larger calibres such as the .38 may be considered if the applicant has to deal regularly with large or dangerous animals (for example, horses, water buffalo, bison, Highland cattle or larger deer species). Note that section 3 does not refer to the use of any particular cartridge.

- 13.39 Sound moderators for pistols should generally be authorised only for veterinary surgeons working at racecourses. Adapted conventional handguns are not generally considered suitable for humane dispatch. The use of solid slug ammunition for shotguns should normally be authorised only for staff on wild boar farms or other farming establishments, though veterinary surgeons may also have a need for solid slug to destroy large animals such as bulls. The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) advises that solid slug for shotguns should only be used from a distance and with a suitable backstop. The HSA also advise that, under such circumstances, a suitably powerful rifle may be more accurate. Comprehensive guidance on the humane killing of animals is available from the HSA.
- 13.40 The humane killing of sick or injured animals is distinct from the slaughter of animals for human consumption. The provision of free firearm certificates applies only to the latter category (see section 32(3) of the 1968 Act).

## Slaughtering

- 13.41 The slaughter of animals for human consumption will often be carried out using captive-bolt instruments that are not considered “firearms” for legal purposes. However, authorisation to possess and acquire a free-bullet slaughtering instrument may be granted to proprietors of slaughterhouses, knackermen, deer and wild boar farmers, butchers and farmers, smallholders and crofters who need to slaughter their own animals. Expanding ammunition should also be authorised for this purpose.
- 13.42 Under section 10 of the 1968 Act, no certificate is required for a licensed slaughterman (under the Welfare of Animals (slaughter or killing) regulations 1995 to slaughter horses, cattle, sheep, swine or goats or the Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) Act 1980) to possess a slaughtering instrument or ammunition in any slaughterhouse or knacker’s yard where they are employed. The use of all slaughtering instruments is governed by the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995.
- 13.43 Under section 32(3) of the 1968 Act, no fee is payable for a firearm certificate issued in respect of a slaughtering instrument or ammunition thereof which the applicant requires for the humane slaughter of animals.

## Tranquillising Animals

- 13.44 Tranquillising equipment such as dart guns and blowpipes are normally considered prohibited weapons that discharge noxious substances under section 5(1)(b) of the 1968 Act. However, under section 8 of the 1997 Act, an authority to possess a firearm is not required for a firearm mentioned in section 5(1)(aba), (b) or (c), which is designed or adapted for tranquillizing or otherwise treating an animal, if you have a certificate subject to a condition restricting its use to use in connection with the treatment of animals.

Authority to possess such firearms should normally be granted to those who have a professional need for such, for example deer farmers and zoo or safari park staff. Such weapons should be used under the direction (though not necessarily the presence) of a veterinary surgeon due to the use of powerful controlled drugs. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) have produced guidance on the use of such equipment.

13.45 Tranquillising equipment may also be needed for scientific research on animals. If an application were not in connection with the treatment of animals the Section 8 exemption would not apply.

## Target shooting

13.46 Target shooting includes the use of firearms for sport and recreation. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) recognises the organisation 'British Shooting' which brings together the national Governing Bodies for target shooting. These divide responsibilities for different types of target shooting as follows:

- National Small Bore Rifle Association (NSRA) – .22RF rifles and pistols, air rifles and air pistols not greater than .22 calibre
- National Rifle Association (NRA) – full-bore rifles, centrefire pistols and muzzle-loading rifle, pistol competitions not covered by the Muzzle-Loaders Association of Great Britain (MLAGB), section 1 (FAC) shotguns, .22 rifles (lightweight sporting rifles and mini-rifle), and long barrelled pistols /revolvers; and
- MLAGB – muzzle-loading rifles and pistols (including muzzle-loading “cap and ball” revolvers).

In Scotland sportsotland and the Scottish Target Shooting Federation act as umbrella bodies for target shooting.

13.47 Additionally, the National Rifle Association, the United Kingdom Practical Shooting Association, National Target Shotgun Association and the British Western Shooting Society govern various types of target shooting involving the use of shot guns, muzzle-loading pistols, long barrelled pistols and rifles.

13.48 Small cartridge-firing firearms which come under section 5(1)(aba) of the 1968 Act may only be used under the specific authority of the Secretary of State or the Scottish Ministers, at specified locations. These are distinct from long-barrelled pistols and long-range pistols which are section 1 firearms.

13.49 Under section 44 of the 1997 Act, a person whose only reason for possessing a rifle or muzzle loading pistol is for target shooting must be a member of a target shooting club approved by the Home Office or the Scottish Government Safer Communities Directorate. They are subject to the condition that the rifle or muzzle loading pistol is only to be used for target shooting. The applicant is not confined to shooting only under the auspices of that club and many applicants will wish to shoot with other clubs. However, membership of a particular club will generally be the core of the applicant's “good reason” and is likely to be the focus of much of their shooting activity. In some cases however, the “good reason” for certain firearms may be activities in a club other than the one nominated club. Long-barrelled pistols, long-range pistols, section 1 shot guns and full bore rifles designed or adapted to fire ammunition capable of discharging projectiles at muzzle energies greater than 10,000 foot pounds do not fall within the three Home Office categories of approval for target shooting clubs, and therefore they cannot take advantage of the free club certificate issued to Home Office approved clubs. They can, however, be held on an individual's firearm certificate as long as they have the facilities to use the firearms for target shooting. Long-barrelled revolvers, long-range pistols, section 1 shotguns and full bore rifles designed or adapted to fire ammunition capable of discharging projectiles at muzzle energies greater than 10,000 foot pounds may not be borrowed at a range for use by other club members.

- 13.50 An applicant should have access to appropriate ranges for the types of firearm concerned. The National Small-bore Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association (or similar organisations) will have inspection and approval systems in place for ranges run by their club members. Independent assessments are also viable.
- 13.51 Muzzle-loaders and other users of black powder need to hold an Explosives certificate, a Recipient Competent Authority issued under the Placing on the Market and Supervision of Transfer of Explosives Regulations in order to possess/transfer black powder, though not for Pyrodex and other smokeless powders (SI 1993/2714). The Recipient Competent Authority is now included on all new explosives certificates.
- 13.52 Target shooting will normally involve shooting disciplines or activities under the general auspices of one of the main national shooting organisations (see 13.46 above and other national organisations such as the Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association and the Vintage Arms Association) but will not necessarily be to their competition rules. It will involve shooting at a target on an approved range but does not necessarily mean shooting in competitions, formal or otherwise. Local shooting disciplines may be accepted as “good reason” for possessing particular firearms.
- 13.53 Target shooters may be expected to use their firearms fairly regularly, say three or more times a year. The police should consider on renewal whether “good reason” continues in respect of all firearms held for this purpose. However, failure to shoot in a year should be regarded as grounds for further enquiries to be made, rather than the automatic partial revocation of the certificate for lack of “good reason”. For example, there may be personal circumstances such as illness, working away (where this is not to be repeated regularly), or practice for a particular competition that may preclude the use of all the firearms concerned. In some cases, competitions for unusual or older arms may be few each year. Owners, and especially collectors, may also not want to regularly shoot old, historic, and valuable firearms, thus avoiding excessive wear and tear.
- 13.54 Chief officers of police should also consider the “good reason” for possession of ammunition quantities for target shooting. Allocations of 1,000 rounds, to possess, purchase or acquire, are not unreasonable for most regular shooters. A serious target shooter (for example in a county or national squad) may reasonably wish to possess up to 6,000 rounds to ensure consistency in performance between batches. In exceptional circumstances greater amounts may be required. These figures should be used as guides only and should not be interpreted as absolute limits. This is normally applicable to .22RF rather than full-bore target shooting. Economy of purchase (‘bulk buying’) is not considered satisfactory as “good reason”.
- 13.55 Long-range pistols will often use rifle actions and cartridges. An applicant to possess a firearm of this sort may be a member of the International Long-Range Pistol Shooting Association (ILRPSA), or other appropriate shooting organisation which organises and marshals this type of shooting discipline, although this is not a requirement. A suitable range (see 13.50 above) is required.
- 13.56 Pump-action, self-loading and other types of shot gun may be used for ‘practical’ target shooting disciplines in which the shooter moves to engage a number of different targets. Applicants should normally be a member of a relevant organisation such as the National Rifle Association, the United Kingdom Practical Shooting Association or National Target Shotgun Association, either individually or as a member of an affiliated club. For ‘End of Trail’ shooting, a set of practical disciplines with a ‘Wild West’ theme, the British Western

Shooting Society (BWSS) is the relevant organisation. In view of the potential hazards associated with the more extreme forms of practical shooting, the police will wish to consider with particular care applications for firearms for 'practical' shooting that falls beyond the examples cited above.

## Large cartridge firearms

13.57 High energy, large cartridge rifles subject to section 1 (bolt action or straight pull) e.g. those using the .338 Lapua Magnum and the .50 Browning Machine Gun (BMG) cartridges, may be sought by some applicants for long range target shooting. Applications for such rifles for target shooting should be conducted on the same basis as other rifles.

## Handguns of Historical Importance

See chapter 9.

## Collection of firearms

13.58 The collecting of firearms by a genuinely interested collector should be accepted as a "good reason" for the grant of a firearm certificate. There should be no blanket policy to prevent the collecting of modern firearms (though collectable firearms will tend to be of the Second World War or earlier eras) nor should arbitrary limits be imposed on the number or type of firearms. However, a single firearm is unlikely to be acceptable unless it forms part of a collection of other exhibits (but see chapter 9). Modern reproductions of vintage arms may be collected, especially to fill gaps in collections of older firearms. There are no calibre-based limits for collecting, and collections may include field artillery, tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles. Vintage handguns are dealt with in chapter 9. Collections may include firearms disguised as other objects that would otherwise be prohibited under section 5(1A)(a) of the 1968 Act. Ammunition may be collected of itself, including expanding, incendiary or armour-piercing ammunition or explosives that would otherwise be prohibited under section 5(1A) of the 1968 Act.

13.59 Chief officers of police should satisfy themselves that the applicant is a bona fide collector who has a genuine interest, perhaps academic, in the evolution of firearms or in particular types or periods, and that the types of firearm requested fall within this interest. Evidence that a person is a member of a relevant society (for example the Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association or the European Cartridge Research Association) might be taken as an indication that they have a genuine interest in collecting, but this is not a requirement. Firearms capable of being fired may be collected, and a collection may include items other than firearms, for example, uniforms and military equipment. Collections of one or two firearms should not normally be accepted unless they form part of a wider collection of non-firearm related exhibits. "Collection" should not be used as an excuse to retain firearms purely for personal or sentimental reasons. In the case of *Hutchinson v Chief Constable of Grampian* (1977), the Court upheld the decision to refuse to issue a certificate for collection to an applicant who was not considered to be a bona fide collector.

An appropriately conditioned firearm certificate that authorises the collection of ammunition does not exempt the holder of that certificate from their duty to comply with legislation controlling the storage of explosives. This is currently the Manufacture and Storage of Explosive Regulations 2005 but due to change within 12 months. Ammunition collectors should be made aware of the potential compliance requirements in respect of other legislation. The Force Explosive Liaison Officer (ELO) should be consulted in respect of

such matters. ACPO (FELWG) has produced an Information and Guidance note dealing with this matter. This note has been circulated to the British Shooting Sports Council and the European Cartridge Research Association who may be consulted for further advice.

13.60 Generally, bona fide collectors of firearms are not normally authorised to possess ammunition and are made subject to a condition prohibiting the use of their firearms. This will be an appropriate balance to the possession of a large number of firearms by a private individual. However, there are two instances where ammunition might be authorised. Some collectors may wish to collect ammunition either as a part of a wider collection of firearms or in its own right. There may also be cases where applicants wish to fire their firearms occasionally, for example to test fire them on an appropriate range. In these cases, the allocation of ammunition for each firearm should be small, and the applicant expected to use these rarely. The provisions of regular use as for target shooting set out above should not be applied. A similar principle would apply to antique firearms not held as a curiosity or ornament that are held on certificate for occasional firing. Collections of ammunition may also include exhibits to which section 5 of the 1968 Act applies. This will normally be reflected in conditions.

13.61 Collectors of firearms should not generally be registered as dealers in respect of their collections (see chapter 16). Special arrangements apply to collections of firearms held by museums (see chapter 17), though in cases where a museum holds only a few firearms (for example, as part of a stately home), the grant of a firearm certificate may be appropriate.

13.62 The term “trophy of war” is not defined in legislation, but is generally held to refer to firearms either carried on active service or captured from the enemy. The term may be interpreted fairly widely when persons of good repute wish to retain possession of a firearm without the associated ammunition, providing that it is not government property. Weapons issued or captured after the Second World War are government property and their retention is not permitted. This applies to weapons brought back from other conflicts, for example, the Falklands campaign in 1982 and the Gulf War in 1990-91, or more recently Afghanistan (2001 to present) or Iraq (2003 to 2011).

All persons retaining trophies of war must hold a certificate but no fee is payable for this (as per section 32(4) of the 1968 Act). No ammunition should be included on a certificate relating solely to a trophy of war. Handguns may be retained as trophies of war under section 6 of the 1997 Act without obtaining the authority of the Secretary of State or the Scottish Ministers, however, this is provided that the person is authorised to possess it by a firearms certificate, and provided that the trophy of war was acquired before 1st Jan 1946.

13.63 Firearms acquired from the original holder and no longer held as family heirlooms should not normally be regarded as “trophies of war” and should be subject to the normal firearm certificate procedure. They may qualify for Section 7.1 or 7.3 status. Firearms recovered from wrecked ships and crashed military aircraft cannot be regarded as trophies of war and their retention, unless authorised by the Receiver of Wreck or the Ministry of Defence, cannot be authorised.

13.64 The provisions of section 6 of the 1997 Act make no mention of the inheritance of handguns held as trophies of war so these cannot be inherited directly under those provisions. However, the Home Office is prepared, in principle, to grant the Secretary of State’s authority to allow new heirs to inherit such weapons, and they may then be entered on the heir’s certificate as “trophies of war” in the usual way.

## Signalling apparatus

- 13.65 Signalling apparatus may include flare pistols of up to one-and-a-half inch (37mm) calibre, and pen-type launchers for distress flares, as well as bird scaring apparatus used at airports or for agricultural bird scaring, where use of a conventional shot gun would be inappropriate. Permission to possess such items is normally granted to ships' masters as part of ships' equipment, to small boat owners, to harbour or airport employees, farms/estate managers (bird scaring) or to members of mountain rescue teams. Deerstalkers, wildfowlers or hill walkers who operate in isolated areas may also need to seek authority to carry some form of distress flare.
- 13.66 Flares of a kind that use a male spigot launcher are not subject to controls and are commonly used by mariners, hill walkers and others. Likewise, gas powered 'guns' and blank firing guns used by farmers to scare birds from crops are not subject to certification, and controlled firearms are not generally needed for this purpose. However, the ammunition for such bird scaring equipment is usually a single projectile, and is thus subject to certification. Line-throwing rockets (and their launchers/projectors) and similar devices for throwing ropes to ships in distress are not generally considered to be "firearms" for certification purposes.

## Controlling Races

- 13.67 Section 5 of the 1997 Act states that a section 5 authority is not required to possess a small firearm (handgun) under section 5(1)(aba) of the 1968 Act, at an athletics meeting for the purpose of starting races. The same is true in order to possess, purchase, acquire, sell or transfer a small firearm (handgun) for this specific purpose, provided a certificate is held, subject to the condition that its use must be connected with starting races at athletic meetings. This is intended to allow starters, who may not necessarily be the certificate holder, to use guns that produce a muzzle-flash to start races at which records might be set. Starters should be graded 1 or 2 (but see chapter 6) within UK Athletics Ltd and should only possess blank ammunition. Starters of swimming, cycling and other races have no need of working firearms and may use blank-firing pistols which are not subject to certification.
- 13.68 Small cannons of the kind used for starting (or controlling) yacht races may be authorised for members of yacht clubs and similar maritime associations. These should be treated as signalling apparatus for certification purposes and should only be authorised for use with blank ammunition, (see chapter 6).

## Historical re-enactment

- 13.69 The use of firearms in historical re-enactment is most commonly associated with the Sealed Knot and other groups who recreate the English Civil War era, such as the English Civil War Society. However, periods covered by re-enactors using firearms extend from the Middle Ages to the Second World War and later. Re-enactors possessing black powder (gunpowder) will also need an Explosives Certificate. Muzzle-loading muskets and small cannon are classed as section 2 shot guns for certification purposes. Re-enactors may also use imitation and de-activated firearms which are not subject to certification, especially for the more modern period. However, re-enactors will often wish to demonstrate the workings of their weapons in detail, and section 1 weapons will be appropriate for this purpose.

A distinction is made between battle re-enactors and those involved in historical performance where there are characters in a public presentation using some form of a script and rehearsals and firearms and blank ammunition may be needed as props. In the absence of Court rulings, chief officers of police may consider that only the latter qualify for the exemption to hold a certificate under section 12(1) of the 1968 Act (see also chapter 6).

- 13.70 Firearms commonly used for re-enactment may include rifles (generally bolt-action or single shot), rifled muskets and other muzzle-loading small-arms, muzzle-loading cannon, other artillery, and guns mounted on tanks, ships and other armoured fighting vehicles. Many Lee-Enfield .303 “rifles” and any other rifles of World War One and Two vintage will have been smooth-bored in the past for use as shot guns, albeit now held as section 1 weapons with large capacity or detachable magazines. For large guns with a crew, for example, a muzzle-loading cannon over 2 inch bore, only the gun captain need hold a firearm certificate. Live ammunition for target shooting should not generally be authorised for weapons used for re-enactment. Antique weapons fired with blank ammunition (for example Snider-Enfield and Martini Henry rifles used by Victorian re-enactment groups) should be held on certificate. If any weapon is used for more than one purpose – for example, a re-enactor may wish to hold the same weapon for muzzle-loading target shooting – it should be able to be clarified for the chief officer of police to record the case.
- 13.71 Re-enactors will normally be a member of an appropriate society for the historical period concerned and be authorised to possess firearms relating to the period and the role played, though this is not a requirement. Some re-enactors, in particular cavalry soldiers, may be members of several societies and play a range of roles with need for a mixture of historical weapons. Muzzle loading pistols, including muzzle-loading revolvers used by American Civil War re-enactors and “Western Groups”, will normally be authorised for those playing officers, cavalry soldiers or cowboys. In cases of doubt the chief officer of police may wish to consult with the officers and officials of the relevant re-enactment society concerned.

## Theatrical use

- 13.72 Section 12 of the 1968 Act permits people taking part in a theatrical performance, rehearsal or the production of a cinematographic film to possess genuine firearms during the performance or rehearsal. Under these circumstances, a firearm certificate may be issued to the theatre manager or film production armourer (for these purposes, ‘film’ may be held to include television). Persons under eighteen do not qualify for this exemption by virtue of sections 27 and 28 of the 1968 Act, as amended by regulation 4(2) and 4(3) respectively of the 1992 Regulations. See also paragraph 13.69 for the distinction between historical performance and battle re-enactment. For more information on the use of prohibited firearms for theatrical and cinematic use see chapter 3.

## Component parts

- 13.73 Component parts of firearms are also subject to certificate control, and may be authorised if a shooter needs replacement or interchangeable parts.
- 13.74 The term “component part” may be held (according to case law) as including (i) the barrel, chamber, cylinder, (ii) frame, body or receiver, (iii) breech, block, bolt or other mechanism for containing the charge at the rear of the chamber (iv), any other part of the firearm upon which the pressure caused by firing the weapon impinges directly. Magazines, sights and

furniture are not considered component parts. The 9th report of the Firearms Consultative Committee provides additional information on this subject.

- 13.75 Spare cylinders for muzzle-loading revolvers are not normally authorised except for use in “Bianchi” style competitions under National Rifle Association approved courses of fire. It should be noted, however, that some cased sets, both antique and modern reproductions, will contain a spare cylinder, or cylinders, and these may be properly included on certificate for both possession and use.
- 13.76 The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (section 31, which amended section 3 of the 1968 Act) makes it an offence for anyone to sell or transfer an air weapon, **including their component parts and accessories (See 13.73)** by way of trade or business unless they are registered with the police as a firearms dealer under section 33 of the 1968 Act.

Spare shotgun barrels are not subject to certificate control except for dealers (See chapter 2). With regard to air weapons the pressure bearing parts are the barrel, cylinder or reservoir and the piston. Buddy bottles used for filling the reservoir of pre-charged pneumatic air weapons are not considered to be components.

With modern developments in firearms design many modular systems have come onto the market. A modular rifle can be easily changed to other cartridges by fitting interchangeable barrels and/or bolt components to the action. Each new barrel and/or bolt component will require a variation as they are pressure bearing component parts.

## Sound Moderators

- 13.77 Sound moderators are subject to certificate control as “items designed to reduce the noise or flash of a firearm”. Sound moderators are often used for shooting game, deer, or vermin. In the case of the latter, they might facilitate more effective pest control. They are appropriate for reducing hearing damage to the shooter, or to reduce noise nuisance, for example, for deer control in urban parks, or close to residential properties, or to reduce recoil of the rifle. “Good reason” to possess a rifle for shooting game, vermin or deer should normally imply “good reason” to possess a sound moderator. It should be noted that sound moderators on air weapons or section 2 shot guns are not considered to be component parts. Chief officers of police should also be aware of the case of Broome v Walter (1989) where it was found that an integral sound moderator, that is one that is part of the firearm, does not require separate authorisation. Whilst sound moderators for air weapons are not subject to certificate control they will need to be accounted for in dealers registers when they are in the dealers stock.
- 13.78 Some target shooting events where fire and movement is conducted on field firing ranges may require the use of sound moderators. For example; where hearing protection may impede the shooter and where voice commands need to be heard or given by the shooter for safety and continuity.
- 13.79 Sound moderators should be assigned a calibre, but it is good practice to permit them to be used with more than one calibre of firearm. It is a matter for the individual shooter, subject to the “good reason” test, to decide whether to use a moderator on more than one suitable firearm or to have individual moderators for each firearm.

## Firearms for personal protection

13.80 Applications for the grant of a firearm certificate for the applicant's, or another's, protection, or that of premises, should be refused on the grounds that firearms are not an acceptable means of protection in Great Britain. It has been the view of successive Governments for many years that the private possession and carriage of firearms for personal protection is likely to lead to an increase in levels of violence. This principle should be maintained in the case of applications from representatives of banks and firms protecting valuables or large quantities of money, or from private security guards and bodyguards. The exception to this would be armed guards on UK flagged ships, the justification being the unique threat posed by piracy to cargo and passenger ships in a specific high risk geographical areas.

## Members of the Armed Forces and Police Authorised Firearms Officers

13.82 A person in the Armed Forces who wishes to purchase, acquire or have in their possession any firearm for their own private use (that is, as a private citizen rather than in the course of their military duties) must apply to the local chief officer of police for a certificate, and have their application considered in the normal way (including payment of the appropriate fee). "Military training", "TA training" and "membership of the Army Rifle Association" are not considered to meet the "good reason" requirement.

Possible reasons for the grant of a certificate include: membership of a recognised civilian or military target shooting club, sporting purposes, or shooting vermin. Similar provisions apply to applications from police Authorised Firearms Officers who wish to shoot in a private capacity.

13.83 The Ministry of Defence would appreciate a report being sent to the Commanding Officer of any member of the armed forces who requests a Firearm Certificate quoting "Military Training" or "TA Training" as "good reason" to possess a privately owned firearm.

## Reloading firearms ammunition (home loading)

13.84 Certificate holders often load their ammunition in order to improve the accuracy of their firearms. There are too many technical factors to cover within this guidance, and advice should be sought from shooting associations or competent reloaders if the need arises. Suffice it to say that rifling, propellant charge, the design of a bullet, its individual weight and velocity all affect a given round's range, accuracy and terminal effect on the quarry concerned. For these reasons, certificate holders who reload may wish to acquire a variety of different bullet weights and designs for load development for different applications.

13.85 For quarry shooting some bullet designs (soft nose, hollow nose, ballistic tip, thin or thick jacketed or core bonded) may be preferred over another with regard to their behaviour when they strike the quarry or pest species. Certificate holders often develop their preferences based on their own research and development through home loading.

13.86 Whilst there may be some small cost benefit, more often the reasons for home loading are the pursuit of accuracy, safety and performance. Where performance is involved; different quarry types and their physical makeup, the different ranges in which they are to be engaged (e.g. lighter or smaller flatter trajectory bullets for foxes and heavier bullets for deer) all vary, and home loaders may wish to experiment to ascertain the best combinations. It is not unusual for home loaders to manufacture two or three specific

rounds in the same caliber for different species e.g. fox, small deer and large deer; this is to achieve a clean kill of more than one species without having to change firearms.

- 13.87 Home loaders will usually manufacture various batches for testing using a chronograph to measure velocity and thus ascertain the best combinations. Whilst a chronograph is important to home loaders; it is of utmost importance for ammunition intended for use on animals due to legislative requirements such as in the deer acts (see chapter 14 for more information).
- 13.88 Whilst there are no limits imposed on the number of solid (non-expanding) projectiles that a certificate holder may purchase for manufacturing ammunition, a home loader must not manufacture more than the maximum quantity of ammunition authorised by their firearm certificate.
- 13.89 Some reloaders may test ammunition by firing groups of 3 to 5 rounds, and repeat the group several times to measure consistency. As bullet designs, cases, primers and propellants are so varied, it is not unusual for home loaders to require larger amounts of missiles (bullets) for their research, and possess them in addition to any factory or other home loaded ammunition already held. Load development can be a long process, especially with unusual cartridges; particularly as new products become available.
- 13.90 It is clear that there are circumstances where home loaders may need to acquire increased quantities of expanding bullets. This can be achieved by authorising a further allocation of expanding missiles separately to the ammunition already authorised. This will allow missiles (bullets) to be held independently from ammunition and allow flexibility where different types and weights of bullet are required.
- 13.91 Bullets for home loading are normally sold in boxes of at least a hundred, so authorities to possess should be in multiples of 100.13.92 Some certificate holders may wish to manufacture their own sub-calibre ammunition to achieve flexibility with their rifle when pursuing different quarry or pest species. In order to do this, they will need to acquire expanding missiles in smaller calibre such as .220 inches (.224 actual) for loading into .30 calibre sabot cartridges for example. Authorities for expanding missiles may be granted for this use.
- 13.93 Details of relevant explosives legislation governing the manufacture and storage of ammunition and shooters powders can be obtained in the first instance from the local force Explosive Liaison Officer (ELO) or from the Explosives Policy Team, Health & Safety Executive, 5S.G Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 7HS

## Quarry Shooting

Note that the absence of a calibre in the table below **should not** preclude it being considered by the Police. The purpose of this table is as a guide to establish initial “good reason”.

Paragraphs 13.9 and 13.16-13.18 should be read in conjunction with this table.

Cartridges	Muzzle energy (ft/lbs)	Vermin & ground game and other small quarry <sup>3</sup>	Fox and other medium quarry <sup>4</sup>	Deer and other large quarry <sup>5</sup>	Dangerous Game <sup>6</sup>
.177-.25 Air Rifles (FAC) <sup>1</sup> .22 RF .17 Mach 2 .17 HMR .22 WMR .17 Remington <sup>2</sup> .22 Hornet <sup>2</sup> .204	>12 ft/lbs 100-200 650-700 800-900	Yes	No  (Yes for .17 Remington & HMR, .22 Hornet and WMR – also .22 RF in certain circumstance (see 13.25))	No	No
.17 Remington2 .218 Bee .22 Hornet2 .22-.250 .220 Swift .222 Remington 5.56mm/.223 .243 6mm PPC 6mm/.244	800-900 600-800 650-700 1,350-1,500 1,300-1,900 900-1,000 1,000-1,400 1,600-2,000 1,300-1,800 1,800-2,100	No  (Yes for .17 Remington & HMR, .22 Hornet and WMR)	Yes	No7  (Yes for Muntjac and Chinese water deer in England and Wales with .222 and greater, .243 & 6mm/.244)  Yes in Scotland for Roe Deer with .222 and greater.)	No
.243 6mm/.244 .25-06 6.5mm x 55/.256 .257 Weatherby .264 .270 7mm/.275 .284 .30-06 .303 7.62mm x 51/.308 .444 Marlin .45-70	1,600-2,000 1,800-2,100 2,000-2,400 1,800-2,400 2,400-2,900 1,600-2,900 2,450-2,700 2,200-2,400 2,250-2,800 2,600-3,000 1,900-2,400 2,400-2,600 2,500-3,000 1,600-2,400	No	No  (Yes for .243 & 6mm/.244)  (see also paragraph 13.25)	Yes  (but see paragraph 13.30-13.34)	No

Cartridges	Muzzle energy (ft/lbs)	Vermin & ground game and other small quarry <sup>3</sup>	Fox and other medium quarry <sup>4</sup>	Deer and other large quarry <sup>5</sup>	Dangerous Game <sup>6</sup>
.338	3,800-4,000	No	No	No	Yes
.375	4,500-5,000				
9.3mm Mauser	3,500-3,900				
.416	5,800-6,000				
.458 Win Mag	2,900-4,900				

- 1 FAC air rifles are not suitable for animals larger than vermin or ground game.
- 2 .17 Remington and .22 Hornet would be suitable for use against vermin in specific circumstances (also see paragraph 13.19). Foxes may be shot using .22RF but only at short range,
- 3 Vermin & Ground Game and other Small Quarry - rat, hare, rabbit, grey squirrel and other similar sized quarry.
- 4 Medium Quarry – fox, feral cat and other similar sized quarry.
- 5 Larger Quarry – feral goat, deer, boar, and other similar sized quarry.
- 6 Dangerous Game – lion, elephant, buffalo, bear etc.
- 7 But note legal requirements for shooting Roe Deer in Scotland set out in paragraph 13.34.