

Minutes

NPCC FELWG, RYTON, WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019.

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Author:	DURHAM CONSTABULARY
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Portfolio:	FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES LICENSING WORKING GROUP
Attachments @ paragraphs:	<u>None</u>

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Apologies –

Nicola Murphy, PSNI

1.2 Present

Dave Orford, Durham Constabulary - Chair
Neal Bickford, Durham Constabulary
Mark Groothuis, CT FTC
Zoey Evans, TVP
Jonathan Cumberbatch, Staffs Police
Jo Clews, NABIS
Martin Parker, NaBIS
Fiona Smith – West Yorkshire Police
Helen Rees, DPP
Graham Widdecombe, Home Office
Michelle Mounsey, D & C police
Simon Brough, National Crime Agency
Bridget Hodgson, Northamptonshire Police
Joe Cooke, Devon and Cornwall Police
Darren Miller, Hampshire Police
Tony Hill, Hampshire Police
Jill Acton, Merseyside Police
Suzanne Hassel, Merseyside Police
Chris Downs, Met Police
Lesley Gillespie, Police Scotland
Ewan Henderson, Police Scotland
Alison Higgins, Police Scotland
Richard Kennett, Norfolk / Suffolk



2. Action Log

Medical pre-grant letter – NPCC letter to all forces re. updated position – COMPLETED – DISCHARGED

Compensation arrangements re. prohibited weapons – OUTSTANDING – HOME OFFICE UPDATE THIS IS IN PROGRESS – SI EXPECTED IN JANUARY

RFD inspection protocol – Regional reps to cascade – COMPLETED – DISCHARGED

Main Agenda

Statutory guidance

DO outlined it was right and proper that any Chief's or licensing head could respond to the consultation on statutory guidance, but he would also be writing a reply on behalf of FELWG, and sought the consensus views of the room. GW outlined that the Home Office would be considering views from both sides – i.e. Shooters and policing. DO gave an update in relation to what the BMA had suggested, and this too involved an applicant obtaining the

The main issues arose were;

- Stat guidance, whilst a step in the right direction, was still a distant second best to primary legislation.
- Complete consensus view that the onus should be on the applicant to provide pre-grant screening letter signed and stamped by the GP at the time of application for grant / renewal, and to put the onus on policing would significantly increase work load, lead to delays, and cause friction with partners in the medical profession. The suggested methodology formalises the current ambiguity, but is wholly inefficient.
- Forces that have already insisted on medical screening letters have introduced a system whereby everything is done upstream – to knowingly introduce a process that is less effective and less efficient will risk the credibility of statutory guidance.
- MG made the point that this provision has already be shown to work for RFD servants.
- Other feedback included rewording of 'all police systems' to a more proportionate 'widest relevant systems'.
- Reference to 2005 security guidance is now obsolete, and should be replaced with 2019 guidance.
- Numbering / formatting is wrong.
- 2.49 states Chief officers *may* also consider obtaining medical records of partners; - This is ambiguous, and should be removed in favour of FEO's should be professionally curious.
- Generally there is too much *could, should* where to ensure consistency *must* is required, and to that end the guidance should concentrate on fewer requirements but with greater forcefulness – Overarching strategic aim is to land the medical process once and for all.

NB to collate the major themes, and to reply to consultation with a letter from NPCC outlining the same.

Home Office updates

GW gave brief updates from HO.

- Updates on recent directives on component part marking
- Air weapons reviews – no updates due to change in minister.
- New museum arrangements to come in to play 1st October.
- EU directives – GW updates a rule change re. parents overseeing u18's certified firearms; GW will share the wording once drafted by the lawyers.
- Consultation on high muzzle energy going out for consultation again imminently, and may include miniature rifle range exemptions.
- Non-statutory guidance still under review.
- 2019 security guidance has been finalised, and content agreed with BSSC – awaiting Home Office to agree to content, but in the meantime police should use this as a live document and we can version control future iterations.
- Antiques – **JC / MP in tandem with SB to decide**

****The next sections are restricted from general circulation as they highlight vulnerability****

CT FTC - MG

NCA Update - SB

NABIS update – JC / MP

NFLMS update

DM – gave update after the recent user group meeting, and advised that NFLMS user group is now the forum for all issues single-online home for licensing. 17 forces are now fully signed up to SOH. DM was running a workshop with DPTC team to inform future direction of project.

Business objects is still on unsupported format; DM is arranging the upgrades. DM also advises there is a piece of work on going in relation to data extraction – a £28K project that will be included in the next roll outs.

FS has volunteered to sit on NUG if necessary.

National Strategy

Each region gave an update as to the respective positions. Infrastructure and staffing were the key areas of concern. Risk management was seen as generally positive, save for the issues already well documented around medical. PIP

AOB

Next meeting – Thames Valley Police - Witney Police Station, 15th January 2020.