

# Minutes

## NPCC FELWG, WEST MIDS POLICE HQ, TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019.

**Security classification:** Not Protectively Marked  
**Disclosable under FOIA 2000:** Partial  
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**Force/organisation:** NPCC  
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**Business Area:** FIREARMS  
**Portfolio:** FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES LICENSING WORKING GROUP  
**Attachments @ paragraphs:** None

### 1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Apologies – Richard Kennett  
Nicola Murphy, PSNI  
Michelle Mounsey, D & C police  
Mike Cox, D & C police

1.2 Present

Dave Orford, Durham Constabulary - Chair  
Neal Bickford, Durham Constabulary  
Bridget Hodgson, Northamptonshire Police  
Mark Groothuis, CT FTC  
Martin Parker, NaBIS  
Fiona Smith – West Yorkshire Police  
Joe Cooke, Devon and Cornwall Police  
Darren Miller, Hampshire Police  
Tony Hill, Hampshire Police  
Jill Acton, Merseyside Police  
Suzanne Hassel, Merseyside Police  
Chris Stands, Met Police  
Bernie Turner, Met Police  
Roger Arditti, Met Police  
Paul Pantry, National Crime Agency  
Sara Williams, SWP  
Jeff SWP  
Becky Williams, Warwickshire Police  
Jonathan Cumberbatch, Staffs Police  
Ronnie Megaughin, Police Scotland  
Graham Widdecombe, Home Office



### 1.3 **Welcome**

Dave Orford welcomed everyone to West Mids Police HQ, and passed his thanks to Jon for hosting

## 2. **Action Log**

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AUCTION HOUSES INTRODUCTION; - MG – completed and circulated.

NATIONAL FEO ACCREDITATION – Covered in main agenda

MEDICAL SCREENING ON GRANT – Covered in main agenda

DECLARATION ON DEACTIVATED WEAPONS – Covered in HO updates

COMPENSATION FOR PROHIBITED WEAPONS - Covered in HO updates

INACCURACIES WITH NFLMS / LOST / STOLEN OPTION – Completed – glitch has been fixed

BREXIT RISK REGISTER – Feedback completed.

### **Main Agenda**

#### **Medical screening**

A discussion took place in relation to the current position on pre-medical screening information. The issues that arose were.

- 1) More forces have adopted this process in line with Police Scotland
- 2) The BMA have amended their guidance as of 28 February 2019 to support both the process AND the placing of a marker on patient records where this can be done.
- 3) Home Office guidance consultation is due to commence in July but has been significantly delayed.
- 4) Analysis of forces undertaking the process currently is very positive.
- 5) The Royal College of General Practitioners are supportive of the process.
- 6) BASC and other shooting groups have been consulted and remain concerned in relation to doctors objecting to the process and costs.
- 7) DO is briefing the policing minister shortly.

Having discussed the issue widely, and the recent changes with the BMA guidance that the time was appropriate for FELWG to formally recommend pre-medical screening to forces as best practice, in anticipation of Home Office statutory guidance consultation commencing shortly.

**ACTION; DO would write to forces informing them of FELWG's position.**

#### **CT FTC**

MG introduces his latest paper in relation to the protocols for RFD inspection – copies circulated to all.

**ACTION – Regional reps to cascade – feedback to MG by end of the month**

#### **NFLMS update**

DM – gave update after the recent user group meeting, and advised of recent changes to HO technical team. There are new releases to NFLMS this week with 5 improvements and 16 patches. Next release is due for July. Gucci link is still to be fixed – latest ETA is October / November.

#### **Home Office updates**

GW gave brief updates from HO.

- 1) Antiques – SI still caught up in legislative back log.
- 2) Offensive Weapons Bill is pending royal ascent; the compensation regulations are still being drawn up by the HO, with a compensation window likely to be open for 6 months.
- 3) Updates on recent directives on component part marking
- 4) Notification of deactivations; HO may be making an SI in relation to a requirement to notify police on acquisition of a deactivated weapon – GW aware of the Police' views. – TH; Assume the HO will provide a medium for recording this? – GW would not commit to this.

#### **NCA Updates**

PP; updates on intelligence requirement re. RFD's. – Already tasked out after MG's submission.

**NABIS update \*\*RESTRICTED FROM GENERAL CIRCULATION – HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY\*\***

**ACTION; MP reminds all to ensure thefts are updated on NFLMS, PNC, and NABIS data base – Please continue to remind forces of this.**

#### **Practitioners' updates**

RA gave introduction as to the function of practitioners, and how it might help FELWG and licensing departments, given the wide spread of interested parties under the BSSC umbrella. RA notes a huge amount of good will from the members, and it is a good forum for the exchange of information. Between Graham Downing and RA they are redrafting some terms of reference, but counsels it is an ideal forum as a readymade consultative group.

GW endorses RA's view; it is not a mechanism for shooting groups to beat up forces on individual issues, but it is a broader forum to communicate strategic and practical issues.

RA – It is not a forum for individual complaints – this would devalue the group, and there are other more proportionate methods for doing this.

RA went on to introduce a paper from practitioners in relation to the seizing of guns and some suggested good practice – i.e. issuing of receipts, taking pictures to ensure there is no litigation, respectful handling and storage etc – paper circulated on the same.

**ACTION – Regional reps to cascade paper and discuss at regional FELWG meetings.**

DO will be hosting a meeting of all stakeholders in Durham later in June. Equally, he is happy to host practitioners in Durham on occasion.

General licenses were also discussed – consensus in the room that any queries are referred initially to Natural England website. In relation to any reported breaches, they will be subjected to the usual tests of public interest and proportionality.

**CPD and training**

JC – College of Policing have now withdrawn from firearms licensing due to resourcing issues. The curriculum however, is complete, and the early adopter forces are significantly invested in the process, and feedback has been received and some minor tweaks have been made.

Annual CPD is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> September at Ryton – this will be the launch of the national curriculum standards for all forces, by which time there should be an effective medium for electronic submission.

**PNC broadcasts**

NB – 2 papers on PNC broadcasts – Police Scotland advise they are not routinely receiving all lost stolen notifications, as they can upload the details on to SHOGUN.

Other paper refers to too many PNC broadcasts.

**ACTION- ALL FORCES TO BE REMIND TO SHARE DETAILS OF LOST STOLEN TO POLICE SCOTLAND via PNC.**

**AOB**

**Additional tables on certificates**

BH; some individuals are adding additional self-drawn tables when their certificate is full; is this acceptable? – Universally No! – This practice must stop and forces should publicise this position.

**Information repository**

RA introduced a paper questioning what medium we should use to share good practice, and similarly the outcomes of any appeal - group conclude this should be done via POLKA / knowledge hub. MG can upload documents on to POLKA easily.

**Oil industry – licensing process in Scotland**

EH gave a presentation on licensing processes adopted in Scotland for the oil industry – papers circulated on the same; any queries on this address directly to EH.

### **Variations / GMP**

SH asks are there time limits for variations - is there one? – MG states there is no time limit in law.

### **Upper numbers on guns**

SH – do any forces have an upper limit on how many guns an individual possesses? DO– not as such, though intense scrutiny should take place particularly where large numbers are concerned to ensure there is sufficient good reason.

### **Heat Map**

DO requires all forces to complete a heat map in relation to our national strategy by next FELWG.

**ACTION – All forces to complete this task – regional reps to manage.**

### **Certificates**

BH introduces her force are issuing reduced size certificates to save cost on postage and papers.

### **RM**

DO formally thanked RM for his contribution to FELWG in light of his impending retirement, and likewise recognised the contribution of MC who will be withdrawing from National FELWG.

Next meeting – date tbc - Likely October. Met will host.