

Minutes

NPCC FELWG, MEETING HOSTED BY DURHAM CONSTABULARY. TUESDAY 15TH MAY, 2018.

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Author: DURHAM CONSTABULARY
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Business Area: FIREARMS
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Attachments @ paragraphs: None

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

ACC Dave Orford, Durham Constabulary, Chair
Neal Bickford, Durham Constabulary
Graeme Morgan, Durham Constabulary
Jacqui Ross, Durham Constabulary
Heather Robinson, Durham Constabulary
Dave Coutts, North Yorkshire Police
Bridget Hodgson, Northamptonshire Police
Mark Groothuis, Op. Endeavour
Martin Parker, NaBIS
Mike Cox, Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Joe Cooke, Devon and Cornwall Police
Fiona Smith, West Yorkshire Police
Darren Miller, Hampshire Police
Tony Hill, Hampshire Police
Janet Jones, Merseyside Police
Bernie Turner, Met Police
Roger Arditti, Met Police
Chris Lynn, National Crime Agency
Simon Brough, National Crime Agency
Helen Rees, DPP
Jacqueline Alsford, Home Office
Graham Widdecombe, Home Office
Jonathan Cumberbatch, Police Scotland
Glenn Bland, Police Scotland
Ronnie Megauglin, Police Scotland
Steve White, Police Scotland



Sue Graham, College of Policing
Sarah Smith, Scottish Government

1.2 **Welcome**

ACC Orford welcomed everyone to Durham Constabulary.

1.3 **Apologies**

Andy Kirkwood, Police Scotland
Nicola Murphy, PSNI
Richard Kennett, Suffolk Constabulary
Steve Millington, West Mercia / Warwickshire

2. **Action Log**

Open conditions on grant -

Shooting groups have been consulted, and likewise FELWG managers – no one has provided a viable alternative to the current arrangements. Discharged.

2018 Security standards

NB discussed security standards documents and asked if everyone can feed back to authors in West Midlands.

Main Agenda

3 Medical arrangements -

DO - We are now at the stage where some forces operate on the proviso of no medical screening = no certificate. The enduring marker is still in progress and is being negotiated with home office. The imminent statutory guidance should include more latitude for police to refuse the certificate in the absence of medical screening at the first stages of application.

DO - Argued to home office that forces should be able to ask for medical details at first stage of application, as opposed to forces asking for medical information – final decision lies with minister

The enduring marker has not been finalised, it will be included in the guidance which will be distributed the doctors. It has been agreed there will be no cost to policing and home office have proposed that they will include a suggestive cost within the guidance i.e £50, home office are to add this into the guidance, but it is accepted that this fee is only indicative.

JJ - Merseyside Police have started the process the same as Police Scotland, with the proviso that no medical details then no certificate.

ACTION – NB to chase up forces who have not submitted returns to Home Office re. medical picture.

4 Home Office updates

GW - briefed on gun crime and the vulnerabilities that are being looked at.

The Antiques consultation was closed at the end of December. They are now seeking Ministerial approval to agree guidance and are looking to remove 7 calibres from the Guidance of The Obsolete Calibre list.

Obsolete calibres

GW - The aim is to deal with the seven most common calibres that are causing the most problems at the moment.

It was suggested that clarity is required as to what is classed as an Antique.

It was clarified if they come off the list they will have to go onto a certificate and if the weapon(s) are prohibited they may be able to keep them on section 7(5)(6) as long as criteria has been met.

MP – Is there going to be a strategy for Police forces for those people who are found in possession of these weapons when they should not be or are found in possession of them without a valid certificate. Concerns were raised around prosecution for people who are unaware of the changes in legislation and the ones who are aware of these. This is to be clarified.

TH - Will the process be similar to Air Rifles Legislation that has been changed in Scotland; if it is used for criminal use then prosecution may be likely. If it is in innocence and people are not aware of the law changes then a sensible approach will be used.

GW - European work are still looking at what needs to be done to implement the revised firearms directive.

Working groups on Blank Firers and Deactivations are still being held. The new revised European Deactivation Standard will come into effect 28th June 2018.

Queries raised around individuals having to register deactivated weapons the same as Antiques. Discussions are still taking place with regards to all deactivated firearms that are acquired after the 14th September 2018 will have to be declared to police however it will not apply to those which are currently possessed, individuals will have until March 2021 to notify police. With this in mind, questions were raised as to whether these need to be inspected by police forces, if there is no requirement from police forces to do this then why will there be a need to notify? What will police forces do with the notification once it is received if we are not inspecting these? A directive is needed for police forces. –DO - Earliest milestone for policing to implement this will be September 2018. **ACTION; NB to form working group on the same and report back.**

Updates in relation to .50 cal / MARS rifle – HO have had scores of FOI's in relation to this – another one for Ministers to preside over.

Presentation from Jacqueline Alsford Re S5 vulnerabilities.

******THIS NEXT SECTION WILL BE RESTRICTED FROM WIDER CIRCULATION AS IT HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY*******

5 Air weapon consultation

Update 15/05/2018

GW - Ministers are still considering consultations over Air Weapons that were distributed. No update as of yet.

6 FEO course / College of Policing

JOE COOKE / NEAL

JC – Gave update in relation to work with college – role profiles of FEO has been completed. Modular topics for new FEO course has been developed, and programme specifications are being completed. Lead in CoP is pushing everyone very hard to have completed specifications documenting core competencies for FEO's.

DO – really pleased with progress; Needs to go to consultation with stakeholders as soon as specs are complete. After this it is incumbent on him to launch with Chief Officers, and HMIC.

NB – discussed the current delivery methods as South Yorks and Dorset normally deliver what has been referred to as the national course. Future FEO training should be accessible for all forces to deliver.

DO -explained that the principal is that every force should have the training capability to be able to do it in force.

NB - Consultation internally will go out fairly imminently. DO to invite stakeholder groups up to do external consultation.

RM - Scotland would do the same training as other forces.

SG - explained that there was still the assessment guidance to do. She explained hopefully it will be this summer. The proviso would be that by the end of year it was looked at to be finished by the FEO's.

7 NFLMS and ecommerceupdate

DARREN MILLER

DM gave NFLMS updates; Version 5 release has been implemented which includes EFP variation and certificate extensions.

Version 5.1 will include improved data searching and data extraction – due to be distributed end of July.

Business objects update – current version is out of date. New visualisation including maps will be available however this is still ongoing.

Performance still remains an issue –currently being reviewed and a questionnaire is to be distributed to all forces.

Gucci fix – being progressed and report has been distributed.

Gazetteer and some address not being linked in – being progressed

Online Forms go live by the end of the year. Met, Hampshire and Thames Valley go live in October. This will only apply to Grants and Renewals. No update on the uploading of photos.

9 Op. Endeavor/Auctioneers/Rifle Ranges

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9 NCA – Intel and Picture gaps_

SIMON BROUGH

*******THIS SECTION WILL BE RESTRICTED FROM WIDER CIRCULATION AS IT HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY*******

9 WEIS

CHRIS LYNN

CL – Issues of WEIS not been notified of all weapons being moved into UK.

Discussion have taken place around gaining compliance from member of state of dispatch to make sure that they are notified of the weapon transfer.

Look at notifications from weapon exchange in relation to weapons from humane dispatch being notified to us and looking at NFLMS to make sure they are entered onto the certificate.

MG- Do more in depth inspection of dealer and is it ok to approach NCA to ask for information on that dealer and ask what they know, if anything

11 Explosives

STEVE WHITE

Update 15/05/2018

Update on explosives

- Dog training kits for police – 4kg MAX – should be stored in there original packaging.
- Under 100 grams no separation – need licence and A & K cert also
- Explosives Visitor Applications Form – document is going to be amended
- Ian Donald Watson from BASC has produced a document which is still going through discussions.
- 5 days permit for shows for licence to store and acquire has now gone from 72 hours rather than 5 days.
- Nitro powder and black powder - to be kept in same requirements as per Black Powder

13 AOB

CL - gave update in relation to Op. Calibre and thanked all forces for their compliance.

DC - gave updates from practitioners meeting.

DM - requested for any force using Land Approval Forms and Club Attendance forms to be forwarded to him.

GW - Gave an update in relation to Airbows. Discussions are taken place around how do we regard these, MP explained that these have not yet been classified as of yet and there is limited technical advice around these.

TH -Discussions with GDPR around how do we share information between clubs and dealers, who we are passing personal data.

HO to give guidance on GDPR legislation.

Next meeting;

Police Scotland, Tulliallan, Tuesday 11th September.