



National Policing Firearms and Explosives Licensing Working Group (FELWG)

Notes of Meeting Tuesday 11th July 2023

10:20 hrs – 13:50 hrs (FELWG)

Present:

Adrian Davis, Warwickshire Police (Chair)

S40(2) Warwickshire Police
S40(2) Home Office
S40(2) Home Office
S40(2) Home Office
S40(2) Home Office
S40(2) Home Office
S40(2) Home Office
S40(2) CTPHQ
S40(2) CTPHQ
S40(2) CTPHQ
S40(2) Police Scotland
S40(2) Essex Police
S40(2) Staffordshire and West Midlands Police
S40(2) Merseyside Police
S40(2) Merseyside Police
S40(2) Northumbria Police
S40(2) Northumbria Police
S40(2) Northumbria Police
S40(2) Cumbria Police
S40(2) Cumbria Police
S40(2) Durham Constabulary
S40(2) Surrey and Sussex Police
S40(2) Surrey and Sussex Police
S40(2) Dyfed Powys Police
S40(2) Lancashire Police
S40(2) South Wales Police
S40(2) West Yorkshire Police
S40(2) North Wales Police
S40(2) College of Policing

S40(2),, Gloucestershire Constabulary
 S40(2),, Met Police
 S40(2),, Dorset Police
 S40(2),, Devon and Cornwall
 S40(2),, City of London Police
 S40(2),, Gwent Police
 S40(2),, Gwent Police
 S40(2)/S23(1)
 S40(2)/S23(1)
 S40(2)/S23(1)
 S40(2)/S23(1)
 S40(2),, Somerset Constabulary
 S40(2),, Hampshire Police
 S40(2),, Thames Valley Police (rep Zoe Powderly)
 S40(2),, Cleveland Police
 S40(2),, Wiltshire Police
 S40(2),, Humberside Police
 S40(2),, West Mercia Police
 S40(2),, Norfolk and Suffolk Police
 S40(2),, Norfolk and Suffolk Police
 S40(2),, Single Online Home
 S40(2),, North Yorkshire Police
 S40(2),, Warwickshire Police (Minutes)

Apologies:

S40(2),, Thames Valley Police
 S40(2),, Derbyshire Police
 S40(2),, South Yorkshire Police
 S40(2),, West Mercia Police
 S40(2),, Home Office
 S40(2),, Home Office
 S40(2),, Home Office
 S40(2)/S23(1)
 Steve Duncan, Police Scotland
 Brent Davison, Devon & Cornwall Police and Dorset Alliance
 S40(2),, Northampton Police (East Midlands)
 S40(2),, PSNI
 S40(2),, Leicestershire Police
 S40(2),, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire Police

2	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies Adrian Davis welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made. He informed that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the minutes. Apologies noted above. Direct Dial Numbers for Firearms Licensing Teams – ‘In Teams Message’ This meeting will feed into the – Home Office Enforcement Board – Wednesday 26th July 2023.
3	Declaration of Any Other Business Adrian Davis informed that the any other business raised had been dropped into the relevant agenda items.
4	Master Actions Tracker Document and previous Minutes

	Updates were given on the ongoing actions and the action tracker updated – see action tracker. The minutes from the meeting held on 17th January 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
5	Cumbria Police – Operation Crosshair **S40(2)**, gave a presentation on Operation Crosshair: - December 2023 – ACC wanted a solution to the updated statutory guidance and the CoP guidance around where and how we introduce the drug wipe element into our firearms licence holders. The ACC wanted it to be branded as a safeguarding operation, which is around how do we safeguard the public of firearms licence holders that might be over the limit on cocaine or cannabis using the drug wipes at the roadside. - Explained the way to achieve. - Explained the process. - Reported on the operation undertook - visited 5 licence holders unannounced. - Shown the documents that were used and read out part of the letter that is signed by the ACC. - Reported on the results from the operation undertook. Questions were raised by the group and covered: - Stopping the person whilst driving. - Engagement with shooting Groups – BASC? BASC were consulted on the Monday after the operation and asked if they wanted to be involved in the media campaign. - Does the drug wipe give instant result or sent off to be analysed? With this no arrest and no bloods. Had some consultation with a Barrister around false negative and also discussion with Drug Wipe UK and this is what we are using your drug wipe for and they are happy if needed an expert for court process. Will never get to blood stage and won't cause a backlog. The drug wipe takes up to 8 minutes but if recently taken cocaine or cannabis would expect the line to come up quickly. Are just using the same rules as the roadside. - Assume this is not something that can be done by a civilian FEO? Think it could as the drug wipe input in Cumbria is just a Collision Reduction Officer or traffic officer. The reason for having the ARV officers is more making them safe and secure and if anything were to go wrong the armed police are there. Would support a civilian FEO being there as it deescalates and they see someone who is an expert on firearms licensing. - Looked at drug swipes and what version are you using as ordered the ones that swipe your forehead? Drug Wipe UK ones and you swab the tongue and cheeks. - One of the holders tested positive on drug swipe on serous RTC and turns out he claims not taking form of drugs but taken CBD – not sure how that impacts on it? Would need the discussion regarding temporarily ask for voluntary surrender until consulted with the GP. Would seek a voluntary surrender until the bloods came back but if the bloods came back negative down to an individual force. Firearms Licence Holders vs Drug Wipes **S40(2)**, – Gwent Firearms Licensing Manager reported on the below case: **S40(2)**, Adrian Davis asked for the presentation to be sent to him so it could be circulated. Action 01/110723: **S40(2)**, to forward his presentation to Adrian Davis so it can be circulated with the minutes.
6	Single Online Home National Team Replacement Certificates Any questions FLM re Single Online Home

****S40(2)****, joined the meeting due to a number of questions she wanted to ask. She gave an overview of SOH:

- Support online licensing via SOH website.
- 35 forces who are on board the platform and more are joining in the next few months and year.
- Look to enhance, improve and extend the service with firearms.
- Couple of questions as looking at the plans for the next few months and trying to work out what the priority need is to start approaching things.

The questions raised by ****S40(2)****, were:

- Replacement certificates – don't offer at the moment any sort of online form to request this but is something being considered. The questions that ****S40(2)****, had were around the business process for this and asked If the fee was always chargeable for a replacement.

****S40(2)****, informed that Warwickshire don't charge if the certificate is stolen as long as got sight of the incident log and if table 2 is full and ask for proof. If the certificate is damaged, we would want it back. Use SOH for variations but could do with on there that you need to send your certificate back because it's creating work having to contact the certificate holder as some variations don't need inquiries and need the original certificate back. ****S40(2)****, suggested 3 options – I have damaged my certificate, I have lost my certificate and my certificate has been stolen (stolen would have no fee). ****S40(2)****, highlighted that this is the sort of thing they are looking at and wanted to understand what circumstances the fee would be charged.

****S40(2)****, informed that they charge for a replacement regardless of circumstances.

Adrian Davis reported on the comments made in the chat and stated that there is a mixed view. ****S40(2)****, stated that she was hoping for something more consistent and might engage with everyone over the coming weeks.

- Under what circumstances you might request the old certificate to be returned? ****S40(2)****, said that from what has been said the main reasons is if the certificate is damaged. She asked if there is anything else that you might ask for the original to be sent back or are there any forces who don't ask for it back.

****S40(2)****, said that she would make a note of the comments in the chat.

Adrian Davis highlighted that the challenge is that some things are chargeable and some things aren't and that's why mixed responses for forces and we strive for consistency so maybe this is one to be taken up as to what the direction is.

****S40(2)****, raised that when people fill in application forms on gov.uk sites they have the facility to save but our applicants are saying it takes them 2 or 3 attempts to complete and what we say is fill them out in one go. ****S40(2)****, asked if this is being looked at to be able to save as you go along. ****S40(2)****, said that this is something they would like to be able to implement but at the moment the platform doesn't have the capacity to save forms as the user is working through it. This will be the next iteration of the platform which will deliver the capability for people to be able to log on and save as they go along.

Adrian Davis raised the comment made by ****S40(2)****, that you can charge.

****S40(2)****, highlighted paragraph 11 1 7, page 90 of the non-statutory guidance is very clear that lost or damaged there is a fee and lists the criteria when it's not. ****S40(2)****, stated that if they are going to implement something online that is a one solution that fits then they would be looking to mirror what the guidance says.

****S40(2)****, raised the interoperability between SOH and NFLMS as applicants fill in all the details then we have to manually retype them which is a waste of time. ****S40(2)****, said this is something else that they are aware of but there is a bit of repositioning with what's

	happening to NFLMS and need to know what their strategic direction is. Adrian Davis said that he would set an action for **S40(2)** to go back to **S40(2)** on this matter. Action 2/110723: **S40(2)** to raise with **S40(2)** the Interoperability between SOH and NFLMS so we can understand the formal position as to whether there is any traction with the comments raised at the meeting. **S40(2)** informed that they are hoping to move onto SOH in the next 12 months. He highlighted that Lincolnshire have done a lot of work recently with the automated robotic team and one of the things they would be keen to do is get the applicants in on SOH then be able to devise a process where that automatically gets uploaded on NFLMS. He asked if any forces are doing this at present. **S40(2)** said that she was aware that some other forces do use robotics to integrate some of our forms but didn't know whether anybody was doing this in firearms. **S40(2)** got automation developed with IBM and utilising that. **S40(2)** asked a question around grant and renewal forms around the referee details. Most of the information is mandatory but email isn't currently and asked if that can change. Adrian Davis asked if this matter could be taken up later as he is sensing that referees are potentially going to change with the review on the statutory guidelines. He highlighted that if there is an amendment to the way that referees are tackled then SOH would be part of that group.
7	Home Office Drugs and Firearms Licensing Unit Update on Shooting Clubs Trial – Impact on Surrey / Sussex Licensing Team **S40(2)** updated: - The trial is linked to a point that was raised in January by West Mercia and FELWG around a club secretary who moved into West Mercia area but the firearms was stored in Wiltshire. - A 3-month trial was proposed allocating shooting clubs based on where the firearms was stored instead of where their club secretary was based. - Trial commenced on the 1st May 2023 and concludes at the end of July. - Thanked people for their engagement as needed all forces to be on board with the trial. 75 shooting club applications since 1st May 2023. 63 of these were allocated to the same force as the firearms club secretary. 12 cases allocated to different forces as this is where the club secretary was based elsewhere. Of those 12, 8 shared between 6 forces – Hampshire, Staffordshire, Merseyside, Met, Suffolk and Cambridge and 4 to Surrey. - The storage and lockers were flagged at Bisley. The issue is that clubs would store there then travel down. 115 clubs are believed to be storing weapons in the armory at Bisley. Done some work to find these clubs to see where the club secretary is based and was able to find 82 of them. 82 gave enough information that was needed to get some real data. Of the 82, 66 had the club secretary based outside of Surrey. - This would cause a significant amount of extra work for Surrey. Taking this on board and the trial seems detrimental and possibly unworkable to switch based on the allocation on where they are stored for one force whereas the old process allocating based on where the club secretary was seemed to be a fairer approach but questions the risk. - Interesting point raised back in January which made us ask questions and look into shooting clubs more and therefore want to create a working group. - Once the trial ends in July will send out email providing the results. In that email will also confirm that we are reverting to allocating based on where club secretary lives from August. Also want to review shooting clubs and understand that we are actually properly risk assessing those, getting the right information and asking the right questions. The plan is to create a working group commencing in September and informed who would be part of that group and also asked for volunteers to be put in the group chat. Adrian Davis asked that the volunteers be put forward now and would be useful to have some of the larger forces where it impacts on clubs. **S40(2)** informed that she is still outstanding fees, which was previously raised and sent emails but not had a response. **S40(2)** highlighted that there are 2 different email accounts and checked that people are using the correct account. It was agreed that **S40(2)** would ensure that the emails sent around payments are picked up and resolved.

	Action 03/110723: **S40(2)** to ensure that the emails sent around payments are picked up and resolved. **S40(2)**, raised Club Liaison Officers and said that they were grateful for the work that was done by the Task and Finish Group, which was published on gov.uk. There are a couple of issues and hoping to sort those out around conflict with the criteria where it mentions that it's for the secretary to notify guest days but annex a says this is a task for the Club Liaison Officer. Paragraph 13 says it can be delegated to the appointed Liaison Officer. Need to change leaflet to guidance and gun clubs to shooting clubs. **S40(2)**, stated that the guidance says that the Liaison Officer is given a telephone number to someone who they can contact and is hoping that all forces are happy to share a telephone number so they are contactable in case of an emergency. **S40(2)**, said that he wants to encourage departments to reach out to the Liaison Officer rather than the Liaison Officer having to make contact. Adrian Davis highlighted that the request for numbers raised earlier is for firearms licensing departments to speak to each other. He highlighted that there are other ways if it's an emergency but would take this matter up outside the meeting.
8	**S23(1)**,
9	College of Policing 1 Update on APP **S40(2)**, updated: • Nearing the end of its quality assurance and sign off. It's anticipated that it will be published late July/August. • Not changed much since the consultation draft. • Will provide a feedback report which summaries the feedback received. **S40(2)**, raised the SDA where it's asking that it's sent to the Chief Constable once a year. The Policing Minister asked to scrutinise firearms licensing twice a year and would appear it

	has been scrutinised 3 times at chief officer level. Adrian Davis highlighted that the SDA would calm that down and is something that we see is really important for the APP. 2 Update on National Training for FEO / Senior Decision Makers **S40(2)**, updated: • Priority this financial year is to develop and design a National FEO training course. Work has commenced in house in terms of training design team. • Revisited the learning outcomes for FEOs in light of some of the Plymouth Inquest findings, which are still fundamental fine and going to progress the design work. • Learning materials – asked the group if they had any learning materials around FEOs and willing and able to share. • Will need input from people as develop course in terms of content, mechanisms, approaches. • Will undertake a review phase with practioners. Will get people together to go through what's been designed and to make sure that it's fit for purpose which could then be a precursor to a pilot course. • Received some startup funding from the Home Office and will be looking to recruit some roles into the College, which will be longer term and will include the design and delivery. Don't anticipate the roles starting until early next year so going to explore short term attachments who have worked on other projects and use them as consultancy and pay for their time. • Want to look at the potential for ongoing sustainable funding through any increase in licensing fees and would be an arrangement potentially with Chiefs Council around how we do that. • College are being asked to do more assurance work in high-risk areas of policing and this has been identified as a high-risk area and will be following an adapting process used for high-risk areas. • Will provide any updates via Adrian Davis. Adrian Davis said it was quite clear at the conference that the ACC was clear that this will be a course in the next financial year and wanted to give reassurance **S40(2)**, said that this is still the intention and that there is a new ACC and has reinformed that this is a priority. Adrian Davis stated that the individuals within this group have a lot of experience and to have involvement in looking over the future product before it's delivered would be really important. He highlighted that we couldn't have every force and suggested somewhere around 10 Licensing Managers. **S40(2)**, informed that he had been approached by an external company saying that they've achieved FIO training and asked if any companies have actually been given that accreditation. **S40(2)**, informed that the College can't accredit third party products above and beyond some of our initial entry training for PQF. He said that he would be interested in seeing the wording that they are using and what they are saying. **S40(2)**, said he would liaise direct with Frank Pike around this matter. Adrian Davis raised the APP and said that we have always aspired to have a Code of Practice applied to that. He said that he constantly raises it with the College of Policing and it's still on the agenda and advised that the APP has to be bedded in and potentially the training before the code is applied.
10	Home Office Updates • Fees Update **S40(2)**, thanked the forces that took part in the data collection exercise back in January. Analysts used all the data to calculate new fee levels which were put to the Firearms Working Group in May. The fees are very substantially increased but no further information could be given. Will achieve the full cost recovery if they remain in their current state. The proposals have gone to the Minister to have a look at, will then need approval from the wider set of ministers across government and if content will go to a public

	consultation in the summer, then go to the fees order for the end of the year. The new proposed fees include an amount for firearms licensing teams to receive training on firearms licensing matters. Adrian Davis said that he gets asked a lot of questions as to why do shooting groups and consultations get told about this before us and is it happening this year? This is part of the Fees Group and always cautious and says yes as this is what I'm being told. S40(2) highlighted that there have been difficulties imposing fees in the past and that there could be the odd delay but still on target by the end of the year. October 2023 was the initial aim because fees are meant to be increased by one of the common commencement dates. • S40(2), to discuss amendment to rule 3, Firearms Rules 1998 – Level 3 Security, which comes into force on 27th July 2023 Forces to consider, which of their FAC Holders may need security reviewed. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2023/77 • Other Updates S40(2) reported on the following: • Private Members Bill (dealing with miniature rifle range, the requirements for anybody who runs it to have a certificate and deals with possession of component parts and ammunition with the intent to manufacture) is complete and well received. It's due for a second reading in the Lord's on 14th July 2023. Hoping this will proceed to royal assent. • European Law Bill has been retained and been enacted. Will be looking to make a statutory instrument at the end of the year/early next year which will do away with the requirement for people to notify deactivated firearms. Will probably review the standards of deactivation in the future. • Firearms amendment rules were made on 26th January 2023 and now come into force on the 27th July 2023. This will not apply to existing certificate holders until their certificate needs to be reviewed. Will apply to new grants. • Additional wording to certificates on the first page – proposing the words around Rule 3 that the rifle must be securely stored in accordance with the security measures stipulated or set out in writing by the Chief Officer and that will be a small number and enable us to meet requirements and regulations. Adrian Davis said that this sounds appropriate. • RFD – Risk and Vulnerabilities (Shaun Clarke, Illicit Firearms Supply) – Chair to discuss Adrian Davis informed that the Home Office are duty bound to cross check and make sure that there aren't risks around sharing information of the weaknesses around the interaction with policing and they've asked whether we have any thoughts or concerns around the RFDs. Adrian Davis reported that he gets very little from licensing managers and again asked the group and there were no concerns or questions raised.
11	GP Referrals, Digital Markers & General Medical Concerns Leicestershire – 3 x Notifications – Memory Loss Northumbria – Increase in GP notifications 1 Death Marker – Raised by Devon & Cornwall Police S40(2) reported that this is around ensuring that the police will know if someone has died as there has been occasions where that information hasn't filtered through to the police. One of the suggestions is that the digital marker should be amended so that doctors are promoted to tell the police when one of their patients who is a licence holder has died. A change request has been made but the timings are unknown. Adrian Davis said that there are some comments in the chat and some forces have been informed of deaths of licence holders which suggests there is inconsistency applied.

	Adrian Davis thanked the forces for sending through the information in relation to GP markers. He stated that the Home Office are keen to see how the markers are working. At present GPs don't have the ability to record the referrals and send out as part of their management information and relying on licensing managers. **S40(2)** said that they are looking for some stats and data on how the GPs are using the marker, how many referrals being made to the police, variations regionally. This has been asked for but NHS England have informed that it will be some time before the information is available. Adrian Davis asked the group to send him any interesting things that are coming through in relation to GP markers and he will share those with the Home Office. Adrian Davis informed that there are still thoughts and concerns around the made marker and the application granted marker and that it should be one marker and asked that this gets fed back as part of the public consultation. 2 Recent Meeting with Home Office & Medical Committee 3 GP Digital Markers **S40(2)** reported: • The digital marker has now been rolled out to all GP surgeries in England. There is still quite a bit of variation in levels of awareness across GP surgeries and levels of engagement. • Factsheet – this might help with local conversations. • Lots of interest in adopting the marker in Scotland and Wales. **S40(2)** shared an example of some information that was not provided. **S40(2)** Adrian Davis said to **S40(2)**, that it's important that things like this are feedback and asked that this is feedback. **S40(2)**, informed that it's clear that in a proportion of cases checks are sub delegated down the to the Practice Manager who won't be medically trained and asked if this could be included in some messaging because this shouldn't be happening. Adrian Davis said that there are some comments in the chat regarding this and it's important that the information is coming from the GP. **S40(2)**, raised the application made marker and asked whether we are removing the certificate held marker and replacing with the application made marker for renewal. **S40(2)**, suggested that the wording of what's in the proforma and the statutory guidance states is looked at. Action 04/110722: **S40(2)**, to feedback the concerns raised from the group. Also include in messaging to GPs the concern that cases are sub delegated to the Practice Manager and the information should come from the GP. Look at the wording of what's in the proforma and what's in the statutory guidance in relation to the matter that **S40(2)**, made around the application made marker.
12	Home Office Firearms Licensing Consultation Document – replies by 23/08/23 Adrian Davis informed that there is a public consultation that has just come out, which stems from different shootings (Devon & Cornwall and an incident in Scotland). Adrian Davis reported that one of the main factors which came from the Plymouth inquest and some of the PFD reports was around the potential change in legislation to align shotguns and firearms. This isn't being taken forward at this time and is not a position that is supported by Debbie Tedds and will be fed back to the Home Office Enforcement Board. **S40(2)**, said that this is something not seeking views on given that this is something that the government have already decided on.

	Other elements of the paper offer some clear clarity and detail around why the questions are being asked. Power of entry – pleased to see that as one of the questions. Adrian Davis stated that he is happy to receive feedback or people can respond direct to the Home Office Policy Unit. He said that he would ask the Home Office for a slight extension. Action 05/110723: Home Office Firearms Licensing Consultation - all to ensure that feedback is provided direct or via Adrian Davis. The return date is 23rd August and all to ensure that Adrian Davis has the information prior to then. Adrian Davis to contact the Home Office to see whether a slight extension can be given.
13	Firearms Licensing Teams - Performance & Data Request May 2023 Data Adrian Davis informed that the data has been shared and is really useful. He stated that the conversations and debate around temporary permits is starting to move in the right direction. Adrian Davis highlighted that shotgun grant applications are potentially going to be the next concern and that we will work through that. Establishment structure – S40(2) asked for this information. Adrian Davis will probably chase up the forces that haven't responded. Discussion held at the conference around forces that have a lot more appeals. Adrian Davis said that it's important to see how appeals are taking place across the forces. This will be aligned to the PFD which came from the Coroner of the Plymouth inquest. Future Analysis Adrian Davis said that he is keen to apply some more analysis to the data. He said that if people think it can be done differently then to let him know. The next ask for data will be the end of July 2023. Some people have asked if the information can be pulled off NFLMS. Adrian Davis said that he couldn't do this and would prefer it if people didn't as he wants managers to have a look and endorse if themselves due to mistakes. S40(2) informed that the searching is done locally on NFLMS so forces will need to do this themselves. Court Appeals – Data Capture Request (North Yorks Police) Coroner PFD Reviews – Guns returned following review of suitability, Initial Feedback / Current Progress? Adrian Davis reported that forces are starting to work their way through these and asked if forces have had any issues. He stated that if people are having challenges, then to let him know. Adrian Davis picked up a point that was raised in the chat around writing terms of reference for these reviews. He said that Debbie Tedds wrote to forces and offered a couple of options in relation to the reviews as to whether they wanted to do all 5 years or 4 years. S40(2) informed that he had a call from Leicestershire around specific terms of reference. Adrian Davis said that a lot of forces have done their own thing in relation to who's doing the review and whether it's the licensing manager and where's the strategic governance. Some forces have pulled in different teams therefore forces are doing different things and are allowed to do that.
14	Strategic Demand Assessment Update Adrian Davis has had conversations with Merseyside who had put some strategic demand assessments (SDA) together before the conference. This work is still in progress and Adrian

	Davis is conscious of the fact that a template is being designed that is going to try and fit all forces. This should be ready in the next couple of months. Going to potentially ask for the first SDAs to come through for March 2024.
15	Social Media Checks Update **S31(1)**,
16	Practitioner update from FELWG Members to include: Incidents of note in your area & General questions **S40(2)**, – Gwent Firearms Licensing Manager **S40(2)**, The CH made a complaint to PSD and when unsatisfied with this he has complained to PCC and now the IOPC. Our stance in GWP is that we will not be notified for cancer treatment as often it is the hospital and there have been cases in SWP where they have taken their own life. As such we always ask to lodge or surrender depending on circs. Interested in other forces stance? Chair – Highlight recent case in BCH re Terminal illness Suicide **S40(2)**, reported on the above case and comments were added to the chat and views were given by the group. **S40(2)**, said that we deal with each one upon their own merit, visit them and see what support networks they have in place. It would then go to Adrian Davis to make the decision but we don't have a blanket policy. **S40(2)**, said that his stance is that we make the assumption that someone who has cancer is therefore suicidal or depression will kick in and that cancer is not one of the relevant conditions. If the prognosis isn't going well then it's the depression that will then trigger these events then take that course of action. Is a case on its merits but distinguish between cancer and depression. Adrian Davis said that somebody and raised the issue of neurodiversity – will ADHD or ASD appear in the statutory guidelines in the future as part of the declaration. Adrian Davis said that this is under debate and forms part of the consultation. • DCI **S40(2)**, – Beds / Cambs & Herts Licensing Manager Please could you raise at the next national meeting forces stances on transfers whilst applicants are under a suitability review. **S40(2)**, said that he spoke with legal and their view was that because they are under our investigation it was for him to revoke the licence and he did but the gentleman said that he couldn't because he had moved area. The individual didn't appeal. This case was part of backlog and didn't feel comfortable dumping it on another force 2 years later. Adrian Davis reported that he had one a few weeks ago and saw it as his own problem and engaged with the TVP manager to see if they would support it and worked together. **S40(2)**, said that her understanding is that the Chief Officer revokes it where the person resides. **S40(2)**, said that she thinks the legislation does say that it should be the Chief Officer of where the applicant is permanently resident. She highlighted it's about having that conversation with the new licensing manager as to how they want to proceed. **S40(2)**, said that she thinks there's no challenge to it and that the courts probably would not challenge it as long as the right outcome is achieved.

	Full files were raised and that they do need to have everything as decisions can't be made on part files. Adrian Davis highlighted that there were different comments in relation to this and would get a defined position. Action 7/110723: Adrian Davis to get a defined position on transfers whilst applicants are under a suitability review as there is so much difference of opinion. **S40(2)** – Warwickshire Police Licensing Supervisor The Game Fair is one of the largest shooting events of the year happening 28 – 30 July 2023 at Ragley Hall Warwickshire. https://thegamefair.org/ Agreed to deal with this matter outside the meeting. Adrian Davis reported that the Game Fair is due to be held 28th – 30th July and that we know the forces attending and will speak direct. **S40(2)** – Dyfed-Powys Firearms Licensing Manager Refer to attached paper suggesting that the information re changes to medical status of applicants / licence holders is removed from the guidance notes and placed onto the application form as a statutory requirement. **Att A** It was agreed that Adrian Davis would take this to the Strategic Board. Action 08/110723: Adrian Davis to take to the Strategic Board the information re changes to medical states of applicants/licence holders is removed from the guidance notes and placed onto the application form as a statutory requirement. **S40(2)** – Leicestershire Police Firearms Licensing Manager Raises the question whether we should have a national FEO report – a more consistent approach and easier to read transfer files Adrian Davis said that he was going to pass this one through to the College of Policing as they are looking at developing a national course. Agreed to carry this over to the next meeting for an update.
17	Other Matters of Significant Vulnerability or concern Overview of Current Position Adrian Davis reported on this item for **S40(2)**. The misuse of weapons stats was presented and discussed. Adrian Davis asked the group to ensure that the data is sent through to **S40(2)**. Action 09/110723: All to ensure that data is sent to **S40(2)**, in relation to misuse of weapons statistics as the data is sent to other agencies.
18	Explosives Licensing • Update from **S40(2)**, HSE Consultation on Fees: • Fees have been static since 2015 and at the time was full cost recovery. • There has been an issue with IT and appears that it's not available and not secure with police forces. • The document has been out in the public domain for about 2/3 weeks. • Document is 39 pages long and there are pages not relevant for us.

	• Going for a flat fee rather than working out how much you have to charge for a licence or certificate. • Will forward the document to Adrian Davis to share. • Responses needed back by 4th September. Happy to collate and send back and will put a deadline for return. **S31(1)**, Explosive Certificate Applications • People are trying to align this application to a firearm and shotgun in as much they want a GP pro forma. • Application form does not cater for this and asked them to make a declaration whether they have any medical illness. Says that the chief officer has to be satisfied that the person is a fit person. • This applies to people who don't have a firearms shotgun certificate and is like a standalone explosives certificate. • You can have an explosive application from a company – does that mean you would go to each of those and ask for a GP proforma which could be 10-30 people as down as a company name. Have to be careful of that because you have no standing and will not support your decision making. • Be careful on decision making.
19	Update / Questions / Concerns from Shooting Groups & Organisations: Adrian Davis reported that very little has come through and putting that down to the fact that we speak an awful lot with the various groups outside of FELWG. • BASC CEO – Meeting with Chief Constable Tedds Met with BASC CEO a few months ago. Was a positive conversation. The point that we didn't make was that it's not very helpful when they are criticising us publicly and that we are in crisis when in fact there are a lot of forces who are performing well. • Letter of concern from the All-Parliamentary Group on Shooting & Conservation Letter received via the Home Office asking questions around temporary permits and shotgun licence grants. Was able to reply easily on this due to the data and the positive work that forces are doing. • All recent queries from shooting groups - resolved. Adrian Davis thanked those involved in dealing with the queries in a timely manner. • **S31(1)**, Adrian Davis referred to the communication put out around a cyber attach on the National Rifle Association. **S31(1)/S23(1)**
20	Intelligence / PND Presentation at last FELWG in January 2023 from **S40(2)**, – Firearms Licensing Manager Northants Police, who trialed the PND feed into their licensing team. Question from the PND – NFLMS Project Team – Continuous Safeguarding Management – Extending the Northants PND Project? Adrian Davis referred to the email attached to the papers and said that the trial has been successful and now running it as business as usual. The project team are currently transferring the data from NFLMS into PND which means that our licence holder information will be there for other intelligence services to use.

	The next part of the project that Adrian Davis is keen to move forward is information from PND feeding into NFLMS as business as usual and not part of the project and was asked to bring this to FELWG to ask if there is support for this. Adrian Davis said that he was supportive as this will bring more opportunity for intelligence information to come into licensing teams so we can assess suitability. Members of the group said that they were supportive in the chat. Adrian Davis will report back to the project team.
21	Any Other Business **S40(2)**, informed that a shooting group had put out something in January and previously on the internet that we are all in crisis. **S40(2)**, asked **S40(2)**, for an apology when he came to Warwickshire and didn't get one. **S40(2)**, asked if we could go back to BASC to get them to put something out publicly. Adrian Davis said that he would speak to BASC regarding their comments. Action 10/110723: Adrian Davis to speak to BASC in relation to the shooting group that put out a message in January regarding how we are in crisis. **S40(2)**, informed that she has had contact from dealers regarding the wildcat cell sound moderators and wanted an opinion whether they could sell them. They are selling them as .223 caliber but also fit a 22250 and 222 as well. She said that we need to be consistent. Some comments were put in the chat. **S40(2)**, said that they are hoping to do away with sound moderators but not acting as quickly as hoped and not an issue from their perspective. Adrian Davis said that this will be mentioned in the Home Office consultation. Cyclops - Adrian Davis informed that Cumbria is the first force to take the new platform of Cyclops, which is a cloud-based platform and fell into an issue with the Home Office which he will take up with **S40(2)**. **S40(2)**, informed that whilst testing prior to going live with CycFirearms, they came across an issue that if you updated a certificate to be cancelled on NFLMS the data wasn't coming across in CycFirearms. It was identified that there are few discrepancies with the TAR file. This has been resolved in the short term but Adrian Davis is going to raise it with the Home Office as there is a longer-term issue. Action 11/110723: Adrian Davis to raise with the Home Office the issue of cancelling a record on NFLMS but stays live on Cyclops and that the Tar file should be accurate for all Cyclops forces and not just Cumbria. Adrian Davis thanked everyone for their continued support.
22	Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 17th October 2023 (blended Teams and location to be decided) Further Meetings Tuesday 23rd January 2024 -Teams