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16/04/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2867/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding Plymouth shootings and inquests, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Request 1 – Communications relating to Plymouth shootings and inquests

Please provide copies of any correspondence, submissions, briefing papers, policy documents, memoranda, meeting minutes, internal communications, or other recorded information held by, or sent on behalf of the NPCC lead for Firearms and Explosives Licensing (FELWG) which were exchanged with:

- the Dorset Coroner's Office
- Coroner Ian Arrow
- the Home Office
- in relation to;

Firearms licensing fees, including any discussion of fee structures, cost recovery, or proposed changes following the shootings in Plymouth at Keyham in August 2021 and the subsequent inquests into the deaths of Jake Davison and his victims.

Request 2 – Communications relating to proposals to amend shotgun licensing legislation

Please provide copies of any correspondence, submissions, briefing papers, policy documents, memoranda, meeting minutes, internal communications, or other recorded information held by, or sent, on behalf of the NPCC lead for Firearms and Explosives Licensing (FELWG) which were exchanged with:

- the Home Office
- the National Crime Agency (NCA)
- any other UK government department or law enforcement body

In relation to proposals to amend firearms legislation in order to:

- alter the regulatory classification of shotguns and their ammunition
- align, merge, or move shotgun controls into Section 1 or an equivalent higher control category
- otherwise increase regulatory controls applying to shotguns

This request includes material setting out the NPCC's position before, during, and after any such proposals were developed or considered by the Labour government, including policy advice, impact assessments, consultation responses, draft legislative proposals, briefing notes, and internal discussion documents.

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does not hold any recorded information within the scope of **part 1** of your request.

The NPCC does hold **limited** recorded information within the scope of **part 2** of your request.

On 3 April 2026, an email was circulated by the Staff Officer to the NPCC Firearms and Explosives Licensing portfolio to all police force Firearms Licensing Managers. This email confirmed that the quarterly meeting scheduled for 14 April 2026 would include an additional agenda item to discuss firearms licensing legislation.

This discussion arose from the absence of any public consultation in relation to Section 1 firearms and Section 2 shotguns.

The email also contained information that falls **outside the scope** of your request. In accordance with section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, only information relevant to the terms of your request is disclosed. The extract below is limited solely to the information that is captured by your request and is reproduced **verbatim**:

"Legislation & Guidance

At the forthcoming FELWG meeting on Tuesday 14th April 2026, I would like to use the majority of the meeting, that being after hearing from the usual statutory partners who attend such as NFLMS, PDS, NCA, SOH & Home Office etc... to cover one core subject area, that being firearms licensing legislation.

If you remember from recent FELWG's, we were going to put a meeting in when the Home Office Sec 1 / 2 consultation came out to discuss this and other areas of legislation so we could send a NPCC response via DCC Gardner.

*That consultation was supposed to come out around October of last year, some six months ago and this has now resulted in a parliamentary debate. The current framing of this ongoing matter from the Home Office is that the consultation will come out **in due course** but there is no timeline to this and we do not want to wait any longer. With that in mind NPCC intend on writing to the Home Office to confirm where we believe firearms licensing legislation should be improved to accommodate our requirements. The Home Office are aware and welcome this future paper but for this to be successful, it requires all our collective thought and consideration. And this is where I need your help and thoughts at the meeting on the 14th to really consider this subject area. I cannot just write 'we need to start again' as whilst some might think this (and the law commission were critical in 2015 on this point), I need to be professional and proportionate on the parts, which cause us the most frustration and complication.*

As a starter we cannot condition Sec 2, differing ages at application, paper applications, RFD paper records, and what elements of Sec 2 & 1 could be better aligned etc. I'm sure that this will also mean that the meeting will finish earlier than usual so you have some time back in your working day."

All FOI requests are treated as applicant blind. This means that we do not share your details with any other colleagues within the NPCC when retrieving information captured by a request.

The Staff Officer to the NPCC business area invites you to communicate with him directly if it would be helpful. I am happy to share your contact details on receiving your written consent.

Yours sincerely
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.