



Our Ref: 000701/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 24 March 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 01/03/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How many firearm and shotgun certificates were issued in total in each of the following calendar years (if possible, please break this information down by new certificates and renewals)?*
 - a. 2016
 - b. 2017
 - c. 2018
 - d. 2019
 - e. 2020
2. *How many firearm and shotgun certificates have been issued to holders who have declared a history of the following mental health issues identified in the statutory guidance for firearms licencing; anxiety, depression, suicidal thought or self-harm, acute stress-reaction or an acute reaction to the stress caused by trauma, mania, bipolar or a psychotic illness, a personality disorder or other mental health disorder, in each of the calendar years (if possible, please break this information down by new certificates and renewals):*
 - a. 2016
 - b. 2017
 - c. 2018
 - d. 2019
 - e. 2020
3. *How many firearm and shotgun certificates issued did NOT have the medical history declaration verified by a GP either because it was not requested or the GP did not respond in each of the following calendar years (If possible, please break this information down by new certificates and renewals):*
 - a. 2016
 - b. 2017
 - c. 2018
 - d. 2019
 - e. 2020
4. *Please could you provide a copy of your internal guidance to licensing officers on the criteria for issuing/renewing firearm and gunshot certificates? If this guidance has*

changed in the past 12 months, please could you provide a copy of both the previous guidance and the current guidance?

5. How many gun licenses were revoked on the basis of a change to the holder's mental health – to include the following mental health issues identified in the statutory guidance for firearms licencing; anxiety, depression, suicidal thought or self-harm, acute stress-reaction or an acute reaction to the stress caused by trauma, mania, bipolar or a psychotic illness, a personality disorder or other mental health disorder, for each of the following calendar years:

a. 2016

b. 2017

c. 2018

d. 2019

e. 2020

6. Please provide the age of the youngest and the oldest holder of a firearm or shotgun certificate issued by your force.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

1, Leicestershire Police issued the below firearm and shotgun certificates in the years requested:

2016:

Shotgun Grants - 443

Firearms Grants - 136

Shotgun Renewals - 1905

Firearms Renewals - 442

2017:

Shotgun Grants - 502

Firearms Grants - 138

Shotgun Renewals - 2018

Firearms Renewals – 497

2018:

Shotgun Grants - 437

Firearms Grants - 104

Shotgun Renewals - 816

Firearms Renewals – 251

2019:

Shotgun Grants - 437

Firearms Grants - 124

Shotgun Renewals - 928

Firearms Renewals – 342

2020:

Shotgun Grants - 221

Firearms Grants - 71

Shotgun Renewals - 1880

Firearms Renewals – 469

2, This information is considered exempt by virtue of Section 12 below.

3, This information is considered exempt by virtue of Section 12 below.

4, All Licensing Officers adhere to the Home Office guidance found below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/518193/Guidance on Firearms Licensing Law April 2016 v20.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/518193/Guidance_on_Firearms_Licensing_Law_April_2016_v20.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818022/Draft firearms statutory guidance - 16 July.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818022/Draft_firearms_statutory_guidance_-_16_July.pdf)

5, Leicestershire Police have revoked the below numbers of licenses in the time periods request, these are the total number of revocations as to break these down would invoke Section 12 as detailed below:

2016:

Firearms – 7

Shotguns - 45

2017:

Firearms – 4

Shotguns – 34

2018:

Firearms – 6

Shotguns – 15

2019:

Firearms – 7

Shotguns – 26

2020:

Firearms – 6

Shotguns – 26

6, The youngest certificate holder is 14 years old.

The oldest certificate holder is 95 years old.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

The information you have requested is not held in an easily retrievable format within our systems, therefore to provide the further information sought in this request would require a manual review of licenses issued. This would take in excess of 18 hours.

In order to retrieve the information you have requested would therefore be in excess of the 18 hours specified by the Home Office as the time period for which a police force should allocate to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, the current regulatory limit which has been set by the Secretary of State for public authorities, which includes the police service, is £450 for the marginal costs which are the costs of finding, sorting, editing or redacting information and disbursements (printing, photocopying etc). The Association of Chief Police Officers have agreed a national standard of an hourly rate of £25 is to be charged for the time taken. In essence therefore, the costs equate to 18 hours work per request. It will be apparent therefore that within the time frame of 18 hours it will not be possible to extract the information to answer any of your questions.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under s12(1) as the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and

retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force’s full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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