



The Research, Development and Statistics Directorate exists to improve policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.

Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from both the UK Statistics Authority website and the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

www.statistics.gov.uk
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds

Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2008/09

Simon Eder

05/10

25th March 2010

Acknowledgements

This publication was prepared by staff in the Police Statistics section, part of the Home Office Statistics area of the Science and Research Group.

The author would like to thank Simon Dicketts of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the National Firearms Licensing Managers in the police forces of England and Wales. The author is also grateful for the support and assistance of colleagues in the Home Office and would like to thank Kathryn Coleman, Peter Kaiza, Sarah Osborne and Kevin Smith.

Copies of this and other Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the RDS Internet site: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>. For further information on the statistics in this bulletin please e-mail crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Table abbreviations

- '-' indicates nil
- '..' indicates that data are not available.

This statistical bulletin is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Statistics Unit under the direct line management of a Chief Statistician, who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.

List of figures and tables

Figure 1	Firearm and shotgun certificates on issue, 1995 to 2008/09
Figure 2	Percentage of new applications for firearm and shotgun certificates refused, 1995 to 2008/09
Table 1	Firearm certificates: applications, certificates on issue and firearms covered by certificates: England and Wales 1979 to 2008/09
Table 2	Shotgun certificates: applications, certificates on issue and shotguns covered by certificates: England and Wales 1979 to 2008/09
Table 3	Firearm certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and revocations, 2008/09; certificates on issue at 31 March 2009 by police force area: England and Wales
Table 4	Shotgun certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and revocations, 2008/09; certificates on issue at 31 March 2009 by police force area: England and Wales
Table 5	Firearm dealers: applications for registration and removals from register, 2008/09; dealers registered at 31 March 2009 by police force area: England and Wales
Table 6	Firearm dealers: applications for registration and renewal, granted, and refused; dealers registered: England and Wales 1995 to 2008/09
Table 7	Visitors' firearm permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area: England and Wales 2008/09
Table 8	Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area: England and Wales 2008/09
Table 9	Visitors' permits: England and Wales 1995 to 2008/09
Table 10	European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and cancellations during 2008/09; passes on issue 31 March 2009, by police force area: England and Wales
Table 11	Article 7 Authorities: applications for grant, variations and cancellations, by police force area: England and Wales 2008/09

Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2008/09

SUMMARY

- There were 138,728 firearm certificates on issue on 31 March 2009, an increase of eight per cent compared with 128,528 at the end of March 2008.
- 574,946 shotgun certificates were on issue on 31 March 2009, five per cent higher than the 549,207 on issue at the end of March 2008.
- Around one per cent of new applications for firearm certificates and two per cent of shotgun certificates were refused in 2008/09. These proportions are slightly higher compared with last year.
- There were 2,840 registered firearm dealers on 31 March 2009, an increase of two per cent on last year, and 40 per cent more than on 31 March 2006. The increase is thought to be partly due to new legislation on air weapons dealers (see Notes, paragraph 10).

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on the issue of firearm and shotgun certificates under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997. It covers certificates issued in the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, as well as historical trend data. Further details of the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997 are given in the notes at the end of this report. Information of the number of firearm dealers is also provided.

Data for this bulletin are taken from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS). The NFLMS is a register of all persons who have applied for, or have been granted, a certificate for a firearm or shotgun. It is a web-based national register of all firearm certificate holders. It will update the Police National Computer with details of individuals who own firearms and/or shotguns and record details of anyone who has been refused a certificate or had one revoked. In addition, the NFLMS maintains information on people, companies and dealers that have requested firearms and/or shotgun certificates as well as information on weapons and their history and provides a register of individuals who have had their certificates revoked or had an application for a certificate rejected. The NFLMS is used by all police forces in England and Wales.

Due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to NFLMS during 2006, statistics relating to 2006/07 and numbers of weapons and persons covered by certificates for 2007/08 are not included in this analysis.

Statistics on crimes involving the use of a firearm during 2008/09 are published separately in *Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09* (Smith *et al.*, 2010): <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0110.pdf>

2. FIREARM CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 8)

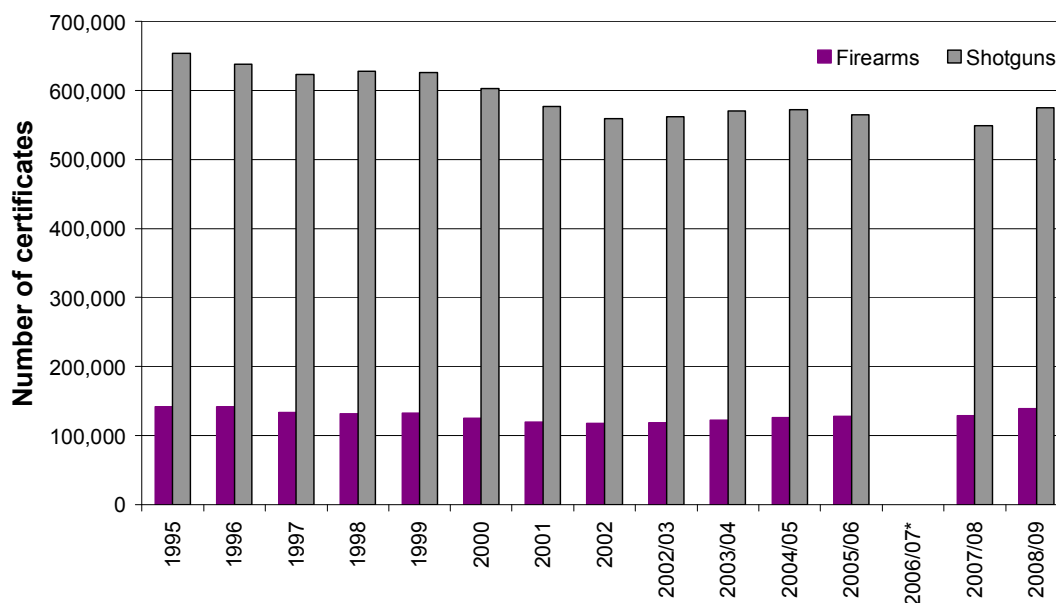
Number of certificates on issue

There were 138,728 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2009, an increase of eight per cent compared with the 128,528 on issue at the end of March 2008. The number of firearm certificates on issue declined between 1979 and 2002, from 169,600 certificates to 117,700 (a decline of 31%). Since 2002, the number of firearm certificates held has risen by 18 per cent, with the 138,728 held in 2008/09 the highest number since 1996 when 141,900 certificates were held (Table 1).

The 138,728 certificates on issue at the end of March 2009 covered 435,383 firearms¹, the highest since these figures were first collected in 1995, when 413,600 weapons were covered by certificates. The number of weapons covered decreased after the Firearms (Amendments) Act 1997 came into effect, falling to 295,000 in 1998, before steadily increasing year on year. The 138,728 certificates on issue represent an 18 per cent increase compared with the end of March 2006 when the last counting prior to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the NFLMS was conducted.

The average number of firearms per certificate on 31 March 2009 was 3.1 (Table 3). This is the first time since figures were collected in 1995 that there have been more than three weapons per certificate on average. Figures for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are not available due to the transition to NFLMS. The previous available figure was for 2005/06, when there were 2.9 weapons on average per certificate.

Figure 1 Firearm and shotgun certificates on issue, 1995 to 2008/09



*2006/07 data are not available (see page 5)

¹ This figure includes those actually possessed and those authorised for possession but not yet acquired.

New applications and renewals

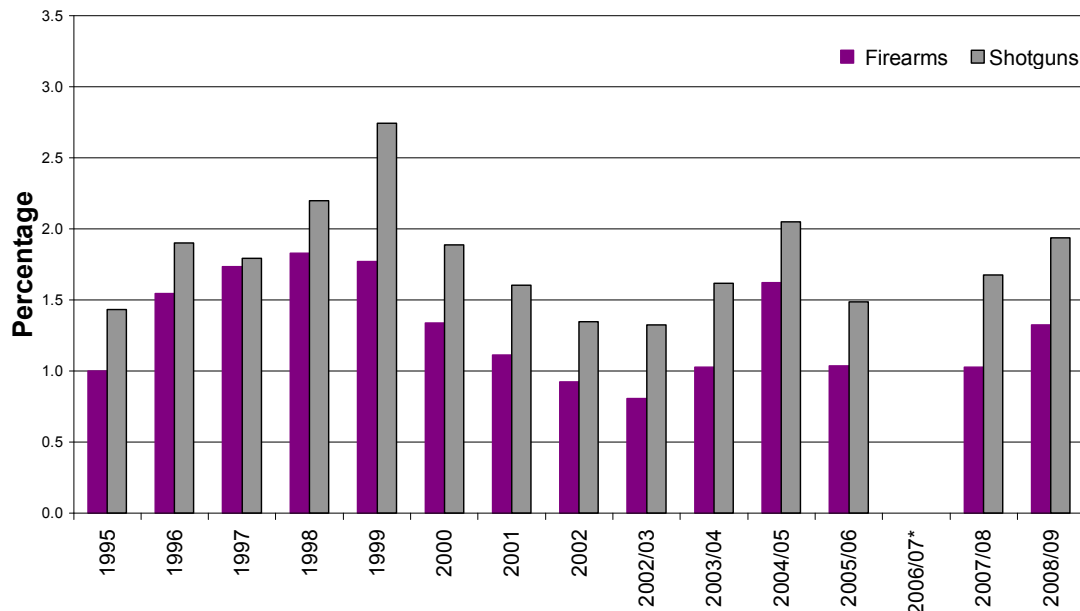
There were 10,046 new firearm certificates granted in 2008/09, a 13 per cent reduction from the 11,601 certificates granted during 2007/08 (Tables 1 and 3). In 2008/09, around one per cent of applications for new firearms were refused, a slightly higher proportion compared with 2007/08. Figure 2 shows the percentage of new firearm and shotgun certificate applications that were refused between 1995 and 2008/09, excluding 2006/07.

On 1 January 1995, the renewal cycle for firearm certificates changed from three to five years. This meant that for two years no renewals were made (1998 and 1999). This change in the renewal cycle has also affected later years, including data published this year, for 2008/09 (Table 1). Therefore it is not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes for renewals.

Revocations of certificates

Certificates can be revoked if the Chief Police Officer is satisfied that the holder can no longer be entrusted with firearms. In 2008/09, a total of 260 firearm certificates were revoked (Table 3), compared with 248 in 2007/08.

Figure 2 Percentage of new applications for firearm and shotgun certificates refused, 1995 to 2008/09



3. SHOTGUN CERTIFICATES (See Notes, paragraphs 6 and 8)

Number of certificates on issue

There were 574,946 shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2009 (Table 4), an increase of five per cent compared with 549,207 at the end of March 2008. The number of certificates on issue peaked in 1988 (at 882,000) and has since fallen by more than a third (Table 2). The reduction since the mid-1990s has coincided with revised procedures for the renewal of shotgun certificates, including the requirement to conduct additional checks such as home visits.

Due to the transition to the NFLMS, data on the number of shotguns covered in force are not available for the previous two years. Shotgun certificates in force at the end of March 2009 covered 1,366,082 shotguns, a slight increase from the 1,360,800 recorded at the end of March 2006. The average number of shotguns per certificate was 2.4, the same average as in 2005/06. The average has increased steadily from the average of 2.0 recorded in 1995. Details for each police force are given in Table 4.

New applications, renewals and revocations

There were 25,411 new shotgun certificates granted during 2008/09, a 21 per cent decrease compared with 2007/08 (Table 2). As with firearm certificates, the renewal of shotgun certificates moved to a five-year cycle on 1 January 1995. The number of renewal certificates in 2008/09 was 25,408. It is again not appropriate to directly compare year-on-year changes due to the change of the renewal cycle.

In 2008/09, around two per cent of new applications for shotgun certificates and less than one per cent of applications for renewal certificates were refused. The number of shotgun certificates revoked increased by 12 per cent, from 903 in 2007/08 to 1,009 in 2008/09 (Table 4).

4. FIREARM DEALERS (see Notes, paragraphs 9 and 10)

On 31 March 2009, there were 2,840 registered firearm dealers in England and Wales, an increase of two per cent from the 2,792 dealers registered in 2007/08. The number of registered firearm dealers declined between 1996 and 2002/03, from 2,490 to 1,970 (a decline of 21%) but has risen since then (Table 6). The increase is partly due to the introduction of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 requiring businesses that sell air weapons to register with the police as dealers (see Notes, paragraph 10). Details for each police force are given in Table 5.

5. VISITORS' PERMITS (See Notes, paragraph 11)

Data for visitors' permits for firearms and shotguns for the last two years show a doubling in the number of individual permits issued compared with 2005/06 (the last reporting period prior to the introduction of the NFLMS), while group applications have fallen considerably. These changes are likely to be related and due to differences in recording between the NFLMS and the previous in-force collections. Consequently, only data for the combined total number of persons covered by individual and group permits are presented in Table 9.

In 2008/09, a total of 1,974 people were covered by individual and group firearm visitors' permits, a 16 per cent decrease compared with 2007/08, when 2,345 people were covered. The figures tend to fluctuate from year to year, averaging around 2,000 since 1995, the first year these particular data were collected.

In 2008/09, 7,035 people were covered by a shotgun visitor's permit, a decrease of 11 per cent compared with 2007/08. Figures for 2006/07 are not available due to the transition to NFLMS.

6. EUROPEAN FIREARMS PASSES (EFPs) AND ARTICLE 7 AUTHORITIES

(See Notes, paragraph 12)

The police began to issue EFPs in January 1993. At the end of March 2009 15,285 EFPs were on issue in England and Wales (Table 10), an increase of 11 per cent compared with the 13,825 EFPs on issue at the end of March 2008.

Also, during 2008/09, 24 applications for Article 7 Authorities were granted to certificate holders, compared with 29 during 2007/08.

NOTES

Accuracy of the statistics

1. The statistics in this bulletin for years up to and including 2005/06 were compiled by each police force and included in an annual aggregate return to the Home Office. Figures for 2007/08 and 2008/09 were extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). They are subject to the measurement inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. So that the reliability of data could be ensured, each force was asked to check their own data and supply revised figures where necessary.

Regulations on the issue of certificates and permits

2. All persons acquiring or in possession of a firearm or shotgun must have a certificate issued by the Chief Police Officer of the police force area in which the person lives, unless they are otherwise exempt. Persons sentenced to any form of custody for a period of three years or more are prohibited from possessing firearms for life. Those sentenced to three months or more but less than three years are subject to a five-year prohibition from the date of their release.

3. Firearm certificates are issued for weapons covered by section 1 of the 1968 Firearms Act (as amended), including rifles, muzzle-loading revolvers and shotguns with magazines that are capable of holding more than two cartridges. The Chief Police Officer must be satisfied that an applicant has good reason for wanting a weapon, is fit to be entrusted with it, and that the public safety or the peace will not be endangered. The certificate lists the number, type and serial number of each weapon held and any conditions attaching (a standard condition is that weapons and ammunition are held in a secure place when not in use).

4. The Firearms (Amendments) Act 1997 banned all firearms with a barrel less than 30cm in length or with an overall length of less than 60cm. Certain types of firearms remain exempt, including muzzle-loading guns, firearms used for the humane killing of animals, flare pistols and vintage pistols held as war trophies or collectors' items, etc.

5. Section 39 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 banned air weapons that use, or are designed or adapted for use with, a self-contained gas cartridge system. With effect from 20 January 2004, under section 5(3) of the 1968 Act, such weapons could not be purchased, acquired, manufactured, sold or transferred without the Secretary of State's authority. The offence of possession was brought into force separately under subsection 4 and came into effect on 30 April 2004. This made provision for existing owners to keep and continue to use their weapons, provided the weapons were added to a firearm certificate (new or variation). Existing owners who did not wish to apply for a certificate were able to hand their weapon into the police for disposal by 30 April 2004.

6. Shotgun certificates, covered by section 2 of the 1968 Act and section 2 of the 1988 Act, permit the holder to possess any number of shotguns. These can include pump-action and self-loading weapons that have a magazine that is incapable of holding more than two cartridges, but excluding large magazine smooth bore guns. Apart from the general prohibitions applying to all types of firearm, applications may not be granted or renewed if a Chief Police Officer has reason to believe that the applicant is prohibited by the Firearms Acts from possessing a shotgun or if he is satisfied that the applicant does not have a good reason for possessing, purchasing or acquiring one. Nor may applications be granted or renewed unless the Chief Police Officer is satisfied that the applicant can be permitted to possess a shotgun without danger to the public safety or to the peace (section 3 of the 1988 Act). The certificate specifies the description of the shotguns including, if known, the identification numbers of the guns.

7. Certain types of weapons (e.g. machine guns) are prohibited under section 5 of the 1968 Act as amended by section 1 of the 1988 Act; their possession can only be authorised by the Secretary of State after careful enquiries by the police.

8. The Firearms (Period of Certificate) Order 1994 came into effect on 1 January 1995. The Order extends the life of all firearm and shotgun certificates granted or renewed after that date to five years. To alter the number and type of weapons held on a firearm certificate, an application for a variation must be made to the Chief Police Officer. The expiry date of a shotgun certificate can be aligned with the holder's firearm certificate (section 11 of the 1988 Act). In 1989, forces began recording the number of weapons for both firearm and shotgun certificates on their computer systems.

9. Section 13 of the 1988 Act increased the registration period for dealers from one to three years. The grounds for refusal of new applications for registration were extended and a register of transactions must be retained for at least five years.

10. Section 31 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 required businesses that sell air weapons to register with the police as dealers. The section was brought into place in two stages: businesses were able to apply for registration from 6 April 2007 and the offence of not being registered came into effect on 1 October 2007.

Regulations on the issue of visitors' permits

11. The conditions for exemptions from holding a firearm certificate were revised in sections 15 to 19 of the 1988 Act. Visitors' permits were introduced allowing the holder to possess a firearm or shotgun without holding a certificate. Permits are in force for a period not exceeding 12 months. Group applications may be made for up to 20 persons (section 17 of the 1988 Act).

12. Each EU state was required to amend its firearms legislation to meet the requirements of the 1991 EC Weapons Directive. In the UK these changes were made by means of the Firearms Acts (Amendment) Regulations 1992, which made provision for the police to issue two new documents to British residents: the European Firearms Pass (EFP) and an Article 7 Authority.

- (a) The EFP is broadly speaking a passport for firearms. EU residents intending to take their firearm or shotgun to another EU state will need an EFP issued by their State of residence. There is only one criterion for the issue of an EFP to a British resident, that the applicant must possess a valid firearm or shotgun certificate. The EFP does not replace the certificate.
- (b) Article 7 of the Weapons Directive requires any EU resident wanting to purchase certain types of firearms, or ammunition for such firearms, outside his or her State of residence to have the prior authority of their own State. In England, Wales and Scotland this agreement is at the discretion of the local Chief Police Officer. Firearms cannot be brought into the UK if an individual does not hold an appropriate firearm certificate, even if Article 7 Authority has been granted.

Table 1 Firearm certificates: applications, certificates on issue and firearms covered by certificates: England and Wales 1979 to 2008/09^{1,2}

Numbers

Year	Applications				Firearm certificates on issue	Number of firearms covered by certificates on issue ^{1,3}
	New applications		Renewal applications			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
1979	..	..	..	..	169,600	..
1980	..	..	..	..	168,000	..
1981	..	..	..	..	164,900	..
1982	..	..	..	..	162,700	..
1983 ⁴	10,500	230	43,400	200	159,800	..
1984 ⁴	11,400	220	43,700	180	160,300	..
1985 ⁴	11,700	220	44,200	150	160,400	..
1986 ⁴	12,100	260	43,600	240	160,300	..
1987 ⁴	11,500	230	42,600	280	159,000	..
1988 ⁴	10,100	240	41,400	410	155,400	..
1989	10,800	260	40,500	300	149,400	..
1990	11,200	230	38,700	240	142,500	..
1991	10,100	180	38,400	170	138,600	..
1992	10,600	160	38,500	120	136,800	..
1993	10,900	120	37,300	170	138,400	..
1994	11,700	120	37,900	130	140,200	..
1995	10,900	110	38,500	110	141,700	413,600
1996	10,200	160	38,100	120	141,900	418,300
1997	6,800	120	32,800	80	133,600	305,000
1998 ⁵	5,900	110	1,600	10	131,900	295,000
1999 ⁵	5,000	90	250	0	132,300	296,400
2000	5,900	80	26,200	90	125,400	296,800
2001	7,100	80	31,300	110	119,600	301,000
2002	8,600	80	28,800	90	117,700	311,000
2002/03	8,600	70	25,100	70	118,600	316,700
2003/04 ⁵	7,700	80	4,100	10	122,100	342,200
2004/05 ⁵	9,100	150	8,300	10	126,400	358,300
2005/06	8,600	90	29,100	40	127,900	368,600
2006/07 ⁶	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08 ⁶	11,601	123	30,158	50	128,528	..
2008/09 ⁵	10,046	133	9,668	24	138,728	435,383

1. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years at 31 March.

2. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

3. Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995.

4. Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

5. The extension of the period of the certificates from three years to five years in 1995 meant that no renewals were due in 1998 and 1999. Those shown are delayed applications from 1997. Figures for 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2008/09 also reflect the renewal cycle change.

6. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

Table 2 Shotgun certificates: applications, certificates on issue and shotguns covered by certificates: England and Wales 1979 to 2008/09^{1,2}

Numbers

Year	Applications				Shotgun certificates on issue	Number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue ^{1,3}
	New applications		Renewal applications			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
1979	..	..	..	..	782,100	..
1980	..	..	..	..	781,900	..
1981	..	..	..	..	785,200	..
1982	..	..	..	..	780,600	..
1983 ⁴	46,600	500	233,700	170	783,400	..
1984 ⁴	55,600	580	233,000	150	798,400	..
1985 ^{4,5}	60,500	690	232,900	170	819,300	..
1986 ⁴	64,100	810	239,900	160	841,000	..
1987 ⁴	65,000	960	246,300	230	861,300	..
1988 ^{4,5}	56,800	980	245,000	340	882,000	..
1989	47,500	970	226,200	330	865,100	..
1990 ⁴	37,800	550	213,500	650	802,300	..
1991 ⁶	35,500	540	208,700	450	724,600	..
1992	33,000	530	197,200	240	689,200	..
1993	31,100	450	195,800	190	681,100	..
1994	32,200	440	201,400	140	670,000	..
1995	24,800	360	195,900	130	653,800	1,325,800
1996	25,800	500	193,100	230	638,000	1,335,000
1997	20,800	380	174,500	170	623,100	1,343,900
1998 ⁷	16,900	380	6,600	60	627,600	1,343,100
1999 ⁷	15,600	440	2,500	10	625,700	1,327,800
2000	18,200	350	141,300	280	602,500	1,320,900
2001	22,700	370	162,400	310	577,200	1,307,600
2002	25,600	350	152,700	300	559,000	1,314,600
2002/03	26,100	350	125,200	260	561,800	1,325,400
2003/04 ⁷	22,500	370	13,500	50	569,900	1,372,700
2004/05 ⁷	23,400	490	46,600	40	572,400	1,384,000
2005/06	25,200	380	141,100	180	563,600	1,360,800
2006/07 ⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08 ⁸	32,358	552	123,766	170	549,207	..
2008/09 ⁷	25,411	492	25,408	93	574,946	1,366,082

1. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years at 31 March.

2. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

3. Full returns for all police forces available only from 1995.

4. Includes estimates made centrally for a small number of forces.

5. Records of shotgun certificates were computerised by the Metropolitan Police in 1985 and Thames Valley in 1988 bringing to light previous under-recording of these figures by up to 7,000 in each force.

6. Reductions of about 9,000 certificates in Essex, 6,000 certificates in Kent and 2,000 in West Mercia occurred in 1991 due to previous over-recording in these forces' figures.

7. The extension of the period of the certificates from three years to five years in 1995 meant that no renewals were due in 1998 and 1999. Those shown are delayed applications from 1997. Figures for 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2008/09 also reflect the renewal cycle change.

Table 3 Firearm certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and revocations, 2008/09; certificates on issue at 31 March 2009 by police force area: England and Wales

Police force area	Applications						Revocations	Firearm certificates on issue at 31 March	Number of firearms covered by certificates in force at 31 March	Average number of firearms per certificate
	New applications		Renewal applications		Variation of certificate					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	366	7	284	-	327	-	10	5,287	15,778	3.0
Bedfordshire	104	-	101	-	97	-	3	1,528	4,975	3.3
Cambridgeshire	186	1	167	-	153	1	5	2,665	7,287	2.7
Cheshire	133	5	194	-	95	-	2	2,558	7,477	2.9
Cleveland	111	-	62	-	59	-	6	928	2,779	3.0
Cumbria	207	2	207	-	185	1	1	3,348	9,359	2.8
Derbyshire	213	3	231	-	171	-	8	3,024	10,002	3.3
Devon and Cornwall	657	6	453	-	508	1	18	9,138	25,351	2.8
Dorset	203	3	176	-	163	-	7	3,206	9,906	3.1
Durham	234	3	168	1	202	-	9	2,393	7,061	3.0
Essex	360	2	310	1	328	-	10	4,525	15,780	3.5
Gloucestershire	157	1	167	-	127	-	2	2,435	7,235	3.0
Greater Manchester	179	7	192	2	157	-	6	2,096	8,350	4.0
Hampshire	352	3	356	1	297	2	7	4,953	16,797	3.4
Hertfordshire	181	2	129	-	134	1	6	2,118	10,298	4.9
Humberside	165	1	178	-	139	1	3	2,637	7,188	2.7
Kent	397	17	322	-	326	-	3	4,539	14,888	3.3
Lancashire	239	3	222	2	215	2	12	2,860	8,731	3.1
Leicestershire	142	-	127	1	112	-	2	2,021	6,109	3.0
Lincolnshire	237	3	209	1	199	-	2	3,790	10,336	2.7
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	48	6.9
Merseyside	64	-	98	-	103	-	2	953	3,437	3.6
Metropolitan Police	358	13	269	3	248	2	18	4,338	15,173	3.5
Norfolk	347	-	188	-	207	1	3	4,504	12,459	2.8
Northamptonshire	165	-	194	-	136	-	2	2,509	7,746	3.1
Northumbria	231	2	187	1	197	-	7	3,573	9,646	2.7
North Yorkshire	332	3	364	1	300	1	4	5,896	16,060	2.7
Nottinghamshire	124	-	149	-	132	-	2	1,944	6,733	3.5
South Yorkshire	147	1	126	-	165	-	5	1,653	5,410	3.3
Staffordshire	157	-	236	-	145	-	6	2,798	9,777	3.5
Suffolk	346	2	306	1	291	-	11	3,967	11,172	2.8
Surrey	181	2	176	2	175	-	4	2,712	9,882	3.6
Sussex	385	5	426	1	352	1	12	5,839	21,352	3.7
Thames Valley	441	2	482	-	328	1	15	6,766	21,387	3.2
Warwickshire	120	-	134	-	112	-	5	2,070	6,506	3.1
West Mercia	697	9	981	4	303	-	12	6,210	19,122	3.1
West Midlands	145	1	163	-	158	-	6	1,883	7,103	3.8
West Yorkshire	181	5	188	-	190	4	7	2,693	8,721	3.2
Wiltshire	171	-	187	-	173	-	2	2,991	9,322	3.1
Dyfed-Powys	222	10	190	-	166	-	3	3,599	11,593	3.2
Gwent	117	-	73	1	103	3	2	1,181	3,919	3.3
North Wales	127	2	167	-	125	-	3	2,631	6,473	2.5
South Wales	165	7	129	1	98	-	7	1,962	6,655	3.4
England and Wales	10,046	133	9,668	24	8,201	22	260	138,728	435,383	3.1

Table 4 Shotgun certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and revocations, 2008/09; certificates on issue at 31 March 2009 by police force area: England and Wales

Numbers

Police force area	Applications				Revocations	Shotgun certificates on issue at 31 March	Number of shotguns covered by certificates in force at 31 March	Average number of shotguns per certificate
	New applications		Renewal applications					
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused				
Avon and Somerset	854	14	743	1	54	20,856	47,246	2.3
Bedfordshire	288	7	240	1	11	6,570	15,984	2.4
Cambridgeshire	484	2	477	-	23	12,711	31,041	2.4
Cheshire	651	13	365	3	14	11,685	27,340	2.3
Cleveland	117	8	87	-	14	2,493	5,529	2.2
Cumbria	370	2	335	-	7	9,868	22,476	2.3
Derbyshire	553	7	435	-	24	12,282	28,776	2.3
Devon and Cornwall	1,039	17	851	3	47	31,358	72,613	2.3
Dorset	444	6	360	-	26	11,219	25,065	2.2
Durham	352	10	249	1	12	6,112	13,990	2.3
Essex	999	6	885	2	38	20,898	49,069	2.3
Gloucestershire	436	9	381	1	12	10,657	26,375	2.5
Greater Manchester	513	14	481	1	25	8,711	19,145	2.2
Hampshire	954	15	1,106	2	47	21,766	50,576	2.3
Hertfordshire	519	20	368	4	17	10,045	31,231	3.1
Humberside	403	6	459	1	14	9,906	24,926	2.5
Kent	1,144	34	1,157	-	12	21,340	49,785	2.3
Lancashire	727	6	563	2	27	12,349	27,904	2.3
Leicestershire	453	-	397	-	23	10,924	26,882	2.5
Lincolnshire	460	14	512	3	17	15,149	40,290	2.7
London, City of	3	-	3	-	-	31	56	1.8
Merseyside	154	6	246	-	8	3,668	7,544	2.1
Metropolitan Police	1,750	52	1,346	10	82	25,251	50,615	2.0
Norfolk	764	2	671	1	19	20,070	55,360	2.8
Northamptonshire	428	7	427	3	8	9,712	23,288	2.4
Northumbria	384	11	313	1	19	9,110	21,130	2.3
North Yorkshire	533	6	619	1	18	18,183	40,987	2.3
Nottinghamshire	378	7	309	3	8	8,890	21,533	2.4
South Yorkshire	427	6	349	-	19	7,953	17,600	2.2
Staffordshire	595	2	830	3	24	13,551	32,552	2.4
Suffolk	783	8	761	2	36	16,986	41,966	2.5
Surrey	663	9	578	3	23	12,817	29,185	2.3
Sussex	845	17	1,092	8	53	20,656	48,781	2.4
Thames Valley	1,426	19	1,355	6	43	28,986	67,374	2.3
Warwickshire	327	3	338	2	11	8,861	20,679	2.3
West Mercia	1,385	32	3,094	14	57	28,003	71,441	2.6
West Midlands	343	5	294	1	22	8,590	18,768	2.2
West Yorkshire	520	24	350	3	20	10,379	23,414	2.3
Wiltshire	556	13	543	2	7	12,740	29,858	2.3
Dyfed-Powys	505	18	543	2	30	16,915	45,818	2.7
Gwent	247	1	192	1	4	6,054	14,379	2.4
North Wales	357	16	474	-	14	12,809	29,406	2.3
South Wales	278	18	230	2	20	7,832	18,105	2.3
England and Wales	25,411	492	25,408	93	1,009	574,946	1,366,082	2.4

Table 5 Firearm dealers: applications for registration and removals from register, 2008/09; dealers registered at 31 March 2009 by police force area: England and Wales

Police force area	New applications for registration		Applications for new certificates from registered dealers		Dealers removed from register	Dealers registered at 31 March
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
	Avon and Somerset	9	-	8			-	2	86
Bedfordshire	7	-	3	-	2	25
Cambridgeshire	8	-	8	-	6	35
Cheshire	6	-	6	-	-	46
Cleveland	-	-	3	-	-	16
Cumbria	3	-	6	-	6	43
Derbyshire	12	-	3	1	11	60
Devon and Cornwall	25	-	12	-	8	129
Dorset	40	-	9	-	1	58
Durham	2	-	4	-	-	28
Essex	11	-	16	-	4	125
Gloucestershire	3	-	3	-	4	31
Greater Manchester	8	1	12	-	6	63
Hampshire	31	-	4	-	4	77
Hertfordshire	8	-	10	-	-	59
Humberside	10	-	4	-	-	51
Kent	17	1	24	-	17	113
Lancashire	6	1	11	-	-	50
Leicestershire	9	-	6	-	1	43
Lincolnshire	11	-	10	-	3	78
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	3
Merseyside	3	-	1	-	-	18
Metropolitan Police	28	1	15	-	7	181
Norfolk	11	-	7	-	4	38
Northamptonshire	28	-	2	-	2	48
Northumbria	7	-	10	-	1	44
North Yorkshire	13	-	9	-	4	70
Nottinghamshire	28	-	5	-	3	48
South Yorkshire	5	-	1	-	4	29
Staffordshire	31	-	5	-	6	36
Suffolk	24	-	11	-	8	68
Surrey	36	-	12	-	1	167
Sussex	15	-	7	-	2	105
Thames Valley	103	-	22	-	16	200
Warwickshire	20	-	3	-	14	63
West Mercia	23	-	14	-	2	127
West Midlands	13	1	6	-	4	85
West Yorkshire	4	-	9	-	6	54
Wiltshire	15	-	7	-	4	78
Dyfed-Powys	14	-	3	-	4	50
Gwent	7	-	1	-	1	30
North Wales	7	-	6	-	-	43
South Wales	6	2	7	-	-	39
England and Wales	667	7	325	1	168	2,840

Table 6 Firearm dealers: applications for registration and renewal, granted, and refused; dealers registered: England and Wales 1995 to 2008/09¹

Numbers

Year	Applications for registration from dealers				Dealers registered ²
	Previously unregistered		Previously registered		
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	
1995	193	10	1,760	13	2,470
1996	149	14	240	2	2,490
1997	102	5	80	2	2,400
1998	120	6	1,360	18	2,180
1999	172	3	180	1	2,090
2000	133	-	190	2	2,070
2001	249	3	1,150	9	1,960
2002/03	154	2	250	3	1,970
2003/04	281	6	300	1	1,950
2004/05	167	5	1,050	-	1,970
2005/06	228	1	310	1	2,030
2006/07 ³	..	..	..	..	..
2007/08	1,273	9	1,035	-	2,792
2008/09	667	7	325	1	2,840

1. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

2. Figures for calendar years are as at 31 December, financial years at 31 March.

3. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

Table 7 Visitors' firearm permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area: England and Wales 2008/09

Numbers

Police force area	New applications ¹				Total of persons covered	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications			Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused			
Avon and Somerset	97	-	2	-	113	-	-
Bedfordshire	9	-	-	-	9	-	-
Cambridgeshire	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cheshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cleveland	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cumbria	24	-	-	-	24	-	-
Derbyshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	47	-	1	-	53	-	-
Dorset	208	-	-	-	208	-	-
Durham	15	-	-	-	15	-	-
Essex	25	-	-	-	25	-	-
Gloucestershire	15	-	-	-	15	-	-
Greater Manchester	10	-	-	-	10	-	-
Hampshire	159	-	1	-	169	-	-
Hertfordshire	31	-	1	-	41	-	-
Humberside	7	-	-	-	7	-	-
Kent	11	-	-	-	11	-	-
Lancashire	40	-	3	-	63	-	-
Leicestershire	16	-	-	-	16	-	-
Lincolnshire	28	-	-	-	28	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Metropolitan Police	51	-	2	-	74	-	-
Norfolk	38	-	-	-	38	-	-
Northamptonshire	22	-	-	-	22	-	-
Northumbria	24	-	-	-	24	-	-
North Yorkshire	39	-	1	-	48	-	-
Nottinghamshire	6	-	-	-	6	-	-
South Yorkshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Staffordshire	44	-	-	-	44	-	-
Suffolk	122	-	2	-	138	-	-
Surrey	112	-	21	-	384	-	-
Sussex	49	-	-	-	49	-	-
Thames Valley	86	-	-	-	86	-	-
Warwickshire	24	-	1	-	30	-	-
West Mercia	30	-	-	-	30	-	-
West Midlands	56	-	-	-	56	-	-
West Yorkshire	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Wiltshire	92	-	1	-	98	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Gwent	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
North Wales	21	-	-	-	21	-	-
South Wales	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
England and Wales	1,577	-	36	-	1,974	-	-

1. The numbers for weapons covered by visitors' permits (previously published in this table) cannot be provided due to the transition to NFLMS

Table 8 Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals by police force area: England and Wales 2008/09

Numbers

Police force area	New applications ¹				Total of persons covered	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications			Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused			
Avon and Somerset	146	-	6	-	204	-	-
Bedfordshire	132	-	1	-	138	-	-
Cambridgeshire	16	-	-	-	16	-	-
Cheshire	21	-	1	-	27	-	-
Cleveland	16	-	-	-	16	-	-
Cumbria	131	-	-	-	131	-	-
Derbyshire	17	-	1	-	25	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	115	-	3	-	140	-	-
Dorset	121	-	-	-	121	-	-
Durham	19	-	-	-	19	-	-
Essex	133	-	-	-	133	-	-
Gloucestershire	106	-	3	-	127	-	-
Greater Manchester	39	-	3	-	54	-	-
Hampshire	586	-	24	-	751	-	-
Hertfordshire	44	-	1	-	50	-	-
Humberside	83	-	4	-	110	-	-
Kent	133	-	5	-	189	-	-
Lancashire	23	-	-	-	23	-	-
Leicestershire	70	-	5	-	103	-	-
Lincolnshire	231	-	3	-	248	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	46	-	-	-	46	-	-
Metropolitan Police	229	-	1	-	236	-	-
Norfolk	137	-	5	-	162	-	-
Northamptonshire	62	-	2	-	79	-	-
Northumbria	188	-	5	-	215	-	-
North Yorkshire	309	-	17	-	400	-	-
Nottinghamshire	9	-	-	-	9	-	-
South Yorkshire	6	-	-	-	6	-	-
Staffordshire	74	-	1	-	80	-	-
Suffolk	387	-	12	-	429	-	-
Surrey	603	-	6	-	641	-	-
Sussex	227	-	14	-	290	-	-
Thames Valley	928	-	48	-	1,033	-	-
Warwickshire	23	-	-	-	23	-	-
West Mercia	253	-	14	-	293	-	-
West Midlands	23	-	-	-	23	-	-
West Yorkshire	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
Wiltshire	251	-	5	-	275	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	22	-	-	-	22	-	-
Gwent	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
North Wales	95	-	5	-	117	-	-
South Wales	11	-	1	-	21	-	-
England and Wales	6,075	-	196	-	7,035	-	-

1. The numbers for weapons covered by visitors' permits (previously published in this table) cannot be provided due to the transition to NFLMS

Table 9 Visitors' permits: England and Wales 1995 to 2008/09¹

Year	Total persons covered	
	firearm certificates	shotgun certificates
1995	1,960	5,850
1996	2,400	7,120
1997	2,100	6,570
1998	2,350	7,140
1999	1,920	6,420
2000	2,280	5,990
2001	1,630	5,260
2002/03	2,220	5,680
2003/04	1,810	5,780
2004/05	2,110	6,200
2005/06	1,770	5,360
2006/07 ²	..	..
2007/08	2,345	7,930
2008/09	1,974	7,035

1. Figures up to 2005/06 are rounded; since 2007/08 figures are unrounded.

2. Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS).

Table 10 European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and cancellations during 2008/09; passes on issue 31 March 2009, by police force area: England and Wales

Numbers

Police force area	Applications			Cancellations	Passes on issue at 31 March
	Grant of new certificate	Renewal of certificate	Variation of certificate		
Avon and Somerset	57	20	-	8	422
Bedfordshire	13	3	-	6	132
Cambridgeshire	31	13	-	2	271
Cheshire	28	16	-	10	246
Cleveland	7	3	-	4	34
Cumbria	17	6	-	3	107
Derbyshire	17	16	-	7	256
Devon and Cornwall	54	18	-	12	411
Dorset	52	3	-	5	162
Durham	10	2	-	2	64
Essex	72	41	-	16	604
Gloucestershire	33	16	-	3	321
Greater Manchester	29	15	-	5	237
Hampshire	81	40	-	13	691
Hertfordshire	65	14	-	6	368
Humberside	15	10	-	3	122
Kent	92	70	-	24	729
Lancashire	57	21	-	14	268
Leicestershire	33	6	-	2	227
Lincolnshire	37	16	-	5	225
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	5	-	-	1	21
Metropolitan Police	342	144	-	41	2,588
Norfolk	38	1	-	7	235
Northamptonshire	19	31	-	2	283
Northumbria	18	8	-	2	165
North Yorkshire	47	21	-	6	385
Nottinghamshire	22	11	-	5	139
South Yorkshire	18	3	-	4	157
Staffordshire	34	13	-	1	229
Suffolk	58	12	-	9	277
Surrey	75	39	-	13	805
Sussex	89	30	-	14	694
Thames Valley	118	48	-	19	1,187
Warwickshire	31	9	-	1	269
West Mercia	87	35	-	16	506
West Midlands	23	22	-	5	280
West Yorkshire	41	17	-	9	276
Wiltshire	64	11	-	5	335
Dyfed-Powys	17	8	-	3	141
Gwent	14	6	-	2	139
North Wales	34	3	-	1	98
South Wales	14	6	-	5	179
England and Wales	2,008	827	-	321	15,285

Table 11 Article 7 Authorities: applications for grant, variations and cancellations, by police force area: England and Wales 2008/09

Numbers

Police force area	Applications								Variations	Cancellations
	By certificate holders		By non-certificate holders		For possession outside UK		For ammunition only			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
Avon and Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridgeshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheshire	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derbyshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Devon and Cornwall	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Dorset	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Durham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Lancashire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicestershire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northamptonshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Nottinghamshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffordshire	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surrey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Thames Valley	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Warwickshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Mercia	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wiltshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gwent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
England and Wales	24	-	-	-	17	-	3	-	-	5