

Sportsman's Association January Newsletter 2017

Magazine News

The European Commission is calling for magazines to be restricted to ten rounds and to include .22 rimfire by Christmas.

It seems to me pointless to target AR15 & AK 57 style rifles, which in this country are not semi auto, the owners may possess as many magazines as they like.

It is estimated that one hundred million assorted Kalashnikov's have been manufactured with twenty and forty round magazines, so there could be over a billion AK mags in existence, how would these be policed?

Shooting losing it's appeal

Every day certificate holders are being refused renewals of their certificates and revocation is rife for a variety of reasons. Police are now contacting the medical profession; General practitioners are expected to advise to police their patient's suitability to own a firearm. The new regulations - which were agreed with the BMA - require GPs to inform the police whether they have any concerns about the patient receiving a firearms license, whether the patient has any relevant medical conditions (such as depression or dementia) and to put a firearm reminder code on the patient record. The shooting organizations are advising the GP's to refuse due to patient confidentiality and that no payment for the time consuming letters, to a degree GP's are not cooperating with the police.

The police are visiting Face book accounts and have revoked certificates, if they disapprove of the content. One of our members in Wales has been the subject of investigation as in 2010 he posted a couple of anti government posts and a cartoon that in my view was harmless, however could be construed as mildly racist.

The convenient tactic employed to reduce the number of firearms is to revoke, and then offer the owner the right to appeal in the Crown Court. The appeal process is most unfair; firstly there is a lot of paperwork to be collated and then a Solicitor and a Barrister would be required. You may represent yourself if you feel you are skilful enough. If you are lucky enough to have your appeal upheld you will have to pay your own legal costs. If you lose you must pay the Crown Prosecution Service costs as well.

De-activation

To update you on today's activity in the Lords, with many thanks to James Legge for the information:

The Government amendment on antiques went through with no problem (the wording had been agreed with BSSC).

Amendment 203J (Expanding ammunition to revert to Section 1) went through OK with Opposition support, as did 203K (limited extension of certificate life at renewal, if necessary).

With regard to deactivated firearms, the Government will seek to 'future-proof' the legislation to avoid the need for primary legislation after Brexit.

The amendment regarding fees for Section 5 authorities, which is intended to come in April 2017, was not moved, but the Government may try again at Third Reading.

Lord Harris did not pursue his amendment requiring mandatory revocation if a certificate holder lost a firearm.

Earl Atlee did an outstanding job of putting the shooters' case for deacts and other aspects of the legislation.

The tinkering continues, if we are leaving the EU, why are we talking to them? They are calling for all deacts after April 8th 2016 to be welded up as a chunk of metal. This poses the question of what happens to the hundreds of thousands that are pre April 2016..

Airgunning

If you are dealing in the buying and selling of airguns you are required to hold a registered firearms dealership. If you are making a private sale you do not. You may only sell to a person over eighteen years of age and the transaction must be face to face.

The important phrase is... "*by way of trade or business*" which is normally taken to mean a commercial enterprise and not a private transaction.

One of our members decided to visit Military fair to sell off his collection and realise some cash as a private individual, not a dealer. His property was seized by the National Crime Agency who claimed he needed a license.

The case continues..

