

points. Despite her medal Geikie lost her place as one of the six athletes funded by British Shooting with money provided by UK Sport following a bi-annual review of performances.

Gorgs, as she is known carried the 2012 Olympic torch through her home town of Oakhampton in Devon.

The Lords transcript

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Williams of Mostyn): "My Lords, I cannot support the amendment. It would allow a significant loophole in the Bill, because it would allow people to keep air pistols which fire pellets of .22 diameter or less at home on a firearm certificate. It is a greater exemption than was proposed under the 1997 Act, because under that Act these air pistols would have had to have been kept and used at a secure licensed pistol club.

"These air pistols are not under the low calibre ones normally used for target shooting. These are high-powered air pistols – over six foot/pounds. They can have a rapid rate of fire. They can be extremely dangerous in the wrong hands. In law there would be no check whatever on

the upper limit of the power that could be developed for these pistols.

"I understand that current international target shooting competitions use low power, uncertificated air weapons which will not be affected by the Bill. Throughout the passage of the Bill, we have stated constantly that the Government are not disposed to agree to allow exemptions to the general ban on handguns which the Bill seeks to introduce. In the light of my comments, I respectfully ask the noble Lord, Lord Monson, to withdraw the amendment.

Lord Monson: "My Lords, I am grateful to the Minister for his explanation. I did not realise that it was the Government's intention to ban such weapons. I do not believe that that was general knowledge until now. In the light of what he has just said, I can only beg leave to withdraw the amendment."

The Sportsman's Association has brought this nonsense to the attention of the British Shooting Sports Council to add weight to our disgust with the draconian actions of the Home office. More next month

The Sportsman's Association

Here to stand up for your rights!

Please help us continue our work for shooter's rights, by joining or rejoining The Sportsman's Association. Or, if you don't want to commit to joining, please help by sending a donation, which will be gratefully received and put to good and effective use. The Sportsman's Association, Seldens, Bell Lane, Birdham, PO20 7HY Tel: 01243 931 517 Mob: 07973 262 133 E: mike.wells@sagbni.co.uk www.sportsmanassociation.co.uk



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