

## WHAT IS A RIFLE?

Confused, you can be;

A long arm with a barrel machined with helical cut grooves in the bore from the breech to the muzzle, this is known as rifling.

Muskets were originally smooth bore long arms. When rifling was introduced to improve accuracy by spinning the projectile, these long arms were known as Rifled Muskets. Over the years the word musket was dropped.

Short firearms were commonly known as pistols or revolvers. Most pistols have rifled barrels to improve accuracy. A short firearm is a gun that can be easily concealed, either, in the trouser waistband, in a pocket or a holster worn on the hip or a shoulder rig, or sometimes strapped to the ankle.

A short firearm is defined in the Firearms act as being less than 600mm in overall length with a barrel less than 300mm.

A long arm must be at least 600mm ( 60 cm ) overall in length, with a barrel not less than 300mm ( 30cm ).

It is as simple as that. In Law there are no such things as long barreled pistols, or revolvers, or long pistols, these are purely descriptive marketing terms.

I was sure of these facts, however, the police were not.

I supplied to a Home Office approved Club a .22 rimfire self loading Browning Buckmark rifle, which had been modified by Alan Westlake into a format that he markets as a Long Pistol, with a detachable stock and entered it on to the Club Firearms Certificate. I had been informed by ACPO that a Home Office approved rifle & muzzle loading pistol club could not possess what ACPO called a long pistol, as the club was only approved for muzzle loading pistols, not "long pistols"

I was arrested and charged with transferring a "pistol" to a Home Office approved club, and as the secretary of that club holding a "pistol" without certificate of authority.

I transferred a rifle, complying with the appropriate dimensions, and I entered it onto the club certificate as a rifle.

I pleaded NOT GUILTY. After a five day trial in the Crown Court, with six expert witnesses; the Jury agreed with me, that I had transferred a rifle and not a pistol.

I was acquitted.

As a recognized expert in firearms, and firearms law. I am appalled that in this case the police appeared to have precious little understanding of firearms or firearms law.