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Firearm certificates England and Wales, 2004/05

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Summary

- There were 126,402 firearm certificates on issue on 31 March 2005 compared to 122,076 on 31 March 2004, an increase of 3.5 per cent. 358,352 firearms were covered by the certificates issued, a 4.7 per cent increase from the previous year but 13 per cent lower than 1995, when full returns were first available.
- 572,397 shotgun certificates were on issue on 31 March 2005, 0.4 per cent more than the previous year. Certificates on issue covered 1,383,958 shotguns, up 0.8 per cent.
- 1.6 per cent of new applications for firearm certificates and 2.1 per cent of those for shotgun certificates were refused. The proportions are higher than the respective 1.1 per cent and 1.6 per cent refused in 2003/04.
- There were 1,967 registered firearm dealers, 0.7 per cent more than 12 months previously.

Introduction

This report presents information for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 about firearm and shotgun certificates issued under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997 and registered firearm dealers. Data relating to calendar years are presented up to and including 2002 and financial years thereafter, bringing this series in line with other published police statistics. Further details of the above-mentioned Firearms Acts are given in the notes at the end of this report.

Statistics on crimes involving the use of a firearm, and persons found guilty or cautioned for indictable offences under the Firearms Acts, are included in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/06 'Violent Crime Overview, Homicide and Gun Crime 2004/2005' (available at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0206.pdf)

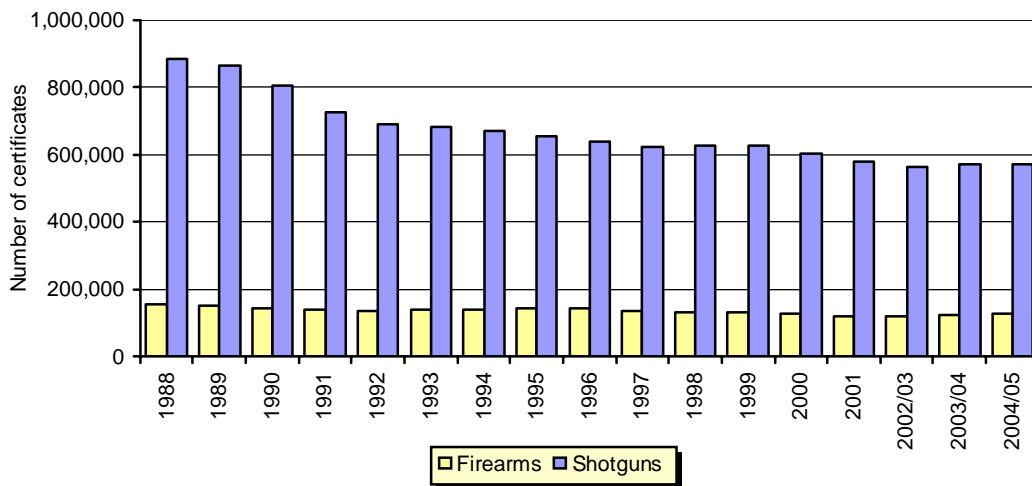
Firearm certificates (See Notes, paragraphs 4, 5 and 8)

Number of certificates on issue

126,402 firearm certificates were on issue at the end of March 2005, an increase of 3.5 per cent from March 2004 (Figure 1). Figures by police force are shown in Table 3.

The number of certificates on issue declined steadily from 190,600 to 136,800 between 1971 and 1992, but increased slightly between 1992 and 1996 (Table 1). In 1997 legislation was introduced banning handguns of more than .22 calibre and further legislation banning smaller calibre handguns was brought in during 1998. The number of firearm certificates on issue on 31 March 2004 was 4.2 per cent less than at 31 December 1998.

Figure 1 Firearm and shotgun certificates on issue



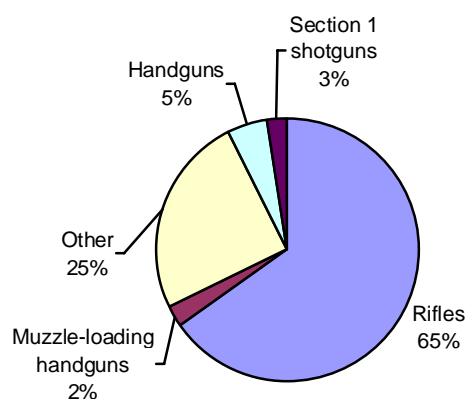
Weapons covered by the certificates

The certificates on issue at the end of March 2005 covered 358,352 firearms (both those actually possessed and authorised for possession but not yet acquired), a 4.7 per cent increase from the previous year. Full data for all police forces were first collected in 1995, when a total of 413,600 weapons were covered by certificates. The number decreased after the Firearms (Amendments) Act 1997 came into effect, to a low of 295,000 in 1998, before steadily increasing year-on-year. However, the figure for 2004/05 is 13 per cent below that recorded in 1995.

The average number of firearms per certificate on 31 March 2005 was 2.8 (Table 3). This is the same as 12 months previously and marginally lower than the 2.9 firearms per certificate in 1995.

Thirty-seven of the 43 police forces were able to provide a breakdown of the different types of firearm covered by the certificates on issue (Figure 2). Of these, rifles accounted for 65 per cent of the weapons covered by certificates, compared with 70 per cent in 2003/04.

Figure 2 Types of firearms covered by certificates¹



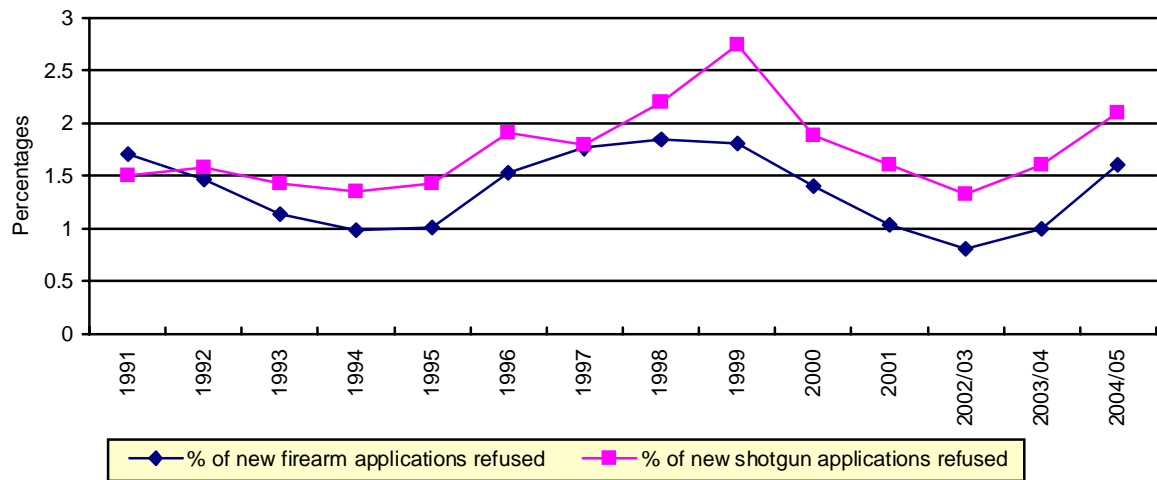
New applications and renewals

9,055 new firearm certificates were granted in 2004/05. This was an increase of 18 per cent on 2003/04, also a 27.5 per cent increase since 2001 (Table 1). A total of 1.6 per cent of new applications for firearm certificates were refused in 2004/05, compared to the 1.1 per cent of firearm certificates refused in 2003/04. Figure 3 shows the percentage of new firearm and shotgun certificate applications that were refused between 1991 and 2004/05.

The change from the three- to five-year renewal cycle came into effect on 1 January 1995. The low figures of renewals recorded in 1998 and 1999 can be attributed to this and has produced a knock-on effect in recent years, with 4,116 renewals granted in 2003/04 and 8,311 in 2004/05. There were also lower numbers of renewal refusals in those years affected by the change of renewal cycle; ten renewal applications (0.1 %) for renewal were refused in 2004/05 (Table 3).

¹ Information on the firearms breakdown was provided by 37 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales. The missing six forces are: Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Sussex, South Wales.

Figure 3 Percentage of new applications for firearms and shotgun certificates refused



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 2004/05 a total of 258 firearm certificates were revoked, of which 28.7 per cent were by the Metropolitan Police Service (Table 3).

Shotgun certificates (See Notes, paragraphs 6 and 8)

Number of certificates on issue

572,397 shotgun certificates were on issue at the end of March 2005, 0.4 per cent more than at the end of March 2004 (Table 4). The number of certificates on issue peaked in 1988 (at 882,000) and has since fallen by more than a third (Figure 1). 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.

Shotgun certificates in force at the end of March 2005 covered 1,383,958 shotguns, up 0.8 per cent from March 2004. The average number of shotguns per certificate was 2.4, no change on the previous year. Details for each police force are given in Table 4.

New applications, renewals and revocations

23,426 new shotgun certificates were granted during 2004/05, a 4.2 per cent increase on the year before (Table 4). The number of granted renewal certificates was substantially higher than March 2004, up from 13,470 to 46,577. As with firearm licences these represent relatively low levels of renewals; these are accounted for by the change, in 1995, from a three- to five-year cycle for renewing licences (Table 2).

2.1 per cent of new applications for shotgun certificates (Figure 3) and 0.1 per cent of applications for renewal certificates were refused in 2004/05. The number of shotgun certificates revoked increased by 8.9 per cent, from 684 in 2003/04 to 745 in 2004/05 (Table 4).

Firearms dealers (see Notes, paragraph 9)

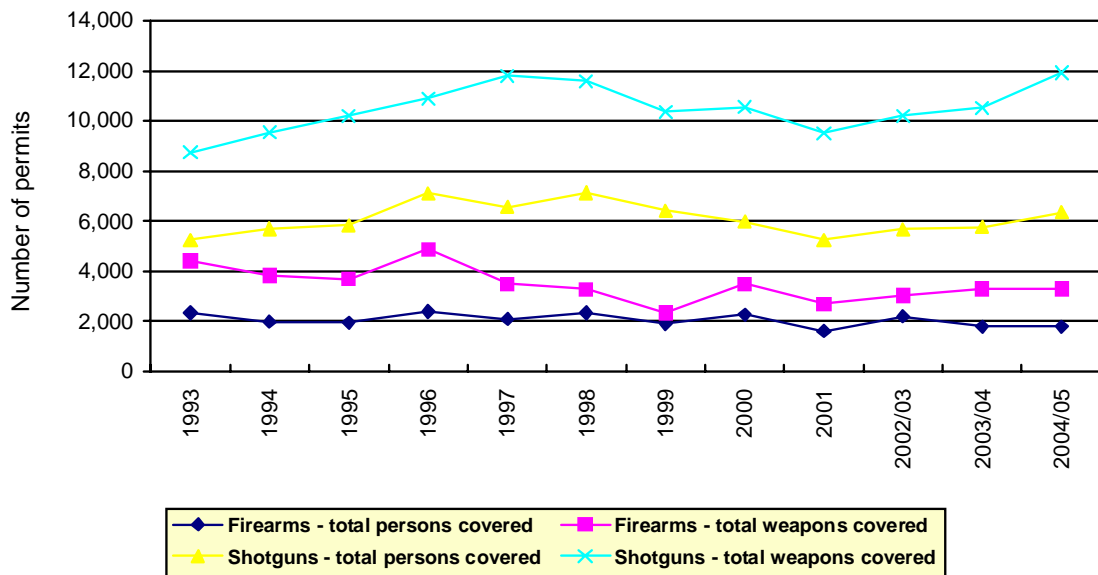
On 31 March 2005 there were 1,967 registered firearms dealers in England and Wales, 0.7 per cent more than the year before. The number of registered dealers has fallen year-on-year since 1996, apart from a slight increase reported on 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2005 (Table 6). Details for each police force are given in Table 5.

Visitors' permits (See Notes, paragraph 10)

2004/05 saw an increase in visitors with firearm permits, totalling 2,110 people. There was a 16.5 per cent increase in people covered by the certificates compared to 2003/04. However, there was a 2.2 per cent decrease in the number of weapons covered by the certificates in 2004/05, down to 3,238 from 3,310 in 2003/04 (Table 9).

In 2004/05 there were 11,694 shotguns covered by visitors' firearm certificates, an 11.2 per cent increase from the 2003/04 figure of 10,520. There was also an increase of 7.3 per cent to 6,200 people covered by the visitors' shotgun permits. Figure 4 illustrates the trend in both visitors' firearm and shotgun permits over the past 12 years; full data are shown in Table 9.

Figure 4 Visitors' permits 1993 to 2004/05



European Firearms Passes (EFPs) and Article 7 Authorities (See Notes, paragraph 11)

The police began to issue EFPs in January 1993. By the end of March 2005, 13,210 EFPs were on issue in England and Wales (Table 10), compared with 11,830 at the end of March 2004. Also during 2004/05, six applications for Article 7 Authorities were granted to certificate holders, compared with 13 the previous year.

Notes

Accuracy of the statistics

1. The statistics in this bulletin are compiled by each police force and included in an annual aggregate return to the Home Office. They are subject to the 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) Acts 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 granted 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.

Regulations on the issue of visitors' permits

10. 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).

11. 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.

Contacts and acknowledgements

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Table 1 Firearm certificates: applications, certificates on issue and firearms covered by certificates, 1971 to 2004/05

Numbers (rounded)

Year	Applications				Firearm certificates on issue ⁽¹⁾	Number of firearms covered by certificates on issue ^(1,2)
	New applications		Renewal applications			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
1971	..	..	..	..	190,600	..
1974	..	..	..	..	185,900	..
1979	..	..	..	..	169,600	..
1980	..	..	..	..	168,000	..
1981	..	..	..	..	164,900	..
1982	..	..	..	..	162,700	..
1983	10,500	230	43,400	⁽³⁾ 200	159,800	..
1984	11,400	220	43,700	⁽³⁾ 180	160,300	..
1985	11,700	220	44,200	⁽³⁾ 150	160,400	..
1986	12,100	260	43,600	⁽³⁾ 240	160,300	..
1987	11,500	230	42,600	⁽³⁾ 280	159,000	..
1988	10,100	240	41,400	⁽³⁾ 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	5,900	110	1,600	⁽⁴⁾ 10	131,900	295,000
1999	5,000	90	250	⁽⁴⁾ 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	7,700	80	4,100	⁽⁴⁾ 10	122,100	342,200
2004/05	9,100	150	8,300	⁽⁴⁾ 10	126,400	358,300

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

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

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

4. 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 and 2004/05 also reflect the renewal cycle change.

Table 2 Shotgun certificates: applications, certificates on issue and shotguns covered by certificates, 1971 to 2004/05

Numbers (rounded)

Year	Applications				Shotgun certificates on issue ⁽¹⁾	Number of shotguns covered by certificates on issue ^(1,3)
	New applications		Renewal applications			
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused		
1971	..	..	..	..	715,500	..
1974	..	..	..	..	767,000	..
1979	..	..	..	..	782,100	..
1980	..	..	..	..	781,900	..
1981	..	..	..	..	785,200	..
1982	..	..	..	..	780,600	..
1983	46,600	500	233,700 ⁽²⁾	170	783,400	..
1984	55,600	580	233,000 ⁽²⁾	150	798,400	..
1985	60,500	690	232,900 ⁽²⁾	170	819,300 ⁽⁴⁾	..
1986	64,100	810	239,900 ⁽²⁾	160	841,000	..
1987	65,000	960	246,300 ⁽²⁾	230	861,300	..
1988	56,800	980	245,000 ⁽²⁾	340	882,000 ⁽⁴⁾	..
1989	47,500	970	226,200	330	865,100	..
1990	37,800	550	213,500	650 ⁽²⁾	802,300	..
1991	35,500	540	208,700	450	724,600 ⁽⁵⁾	..
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	16,900	380	6,600 ⁽⁶⁾	60	627,600	1,343,100
1999	15,600	440	2,500 ⁽⁶⁾	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	22,500	370	13,500	50	569,900	1,372,700
2004/05	23,400	490	46,600	35	572,400	1,384,000

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

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

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

4. 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.

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

6. 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 and 2004/05 also reflect the renewal cycle change.

Table 3 Firearm certificates: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and revocations, 2004/05; certificates on issue 31 March 2005 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	359	3	318	-	304	-	9	4,862	14,409	3.0
Bedfordshire	114	7	85	-	12	-	1	1,367	4,205	3.1
Cambridgeshire	149	1	150	-	116	1	2	2,476	6,542	2.6
Cheshire	167	3	134	-	115	-	4	2,420	6,413	2.7
Cleveland	50	1	65	-	47	-	-	812	2,187	2.7
Cumbria	132	1	216	-	111	-	1	3,131	7,627	2.4
Derbyshire	223	-	141	-	216	-	4	2,641	7,696	2.9
Devon and Cornwall	573	10	556	1	380	-	7	8,227	21,105	2.6
Dorset	219	1	258	-	105	3	9	2,922	8,375	2.9
Durham	146	2	151	-	117	2	4	2,144	5,680	2.6
Essex	321	3	304	-	452	2	5	4,105	12,966	3.2
Gloucestershire	122	1	130	1	95	-	3	2,340	6,231	2.7
Greater Manchester	184	3	125	-	111	-	4	1,829	6,393	3.5
Hampshire	353	8	302	2	120	3	12	4,620	13,838	3.0
Hertfordshire	171	6	124	-	94	-	1	1,878	5,953	3.2
Humberside	123	2	182	-	133	2	5	2,539	5,631	2.2
Kent	339	8	267	-	247	6	5	4,081	12,539	3.1
Lancashire	192	2	180	1	185	-	10	2,424	7,121	2.9
Leicestershire	141	-	140	-	99	1	3	1,791	5,026	2.8
Lincolnshire	183	2	201	1	-	3	3	3,449	8,939	2.6
London, City of	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	13	104	8.0
Merseyside	55	1	49	-	65	-	-	895	2,918	3.3
Metropolitan Police	405	20	398	-	282	-	74	4,420	17,260	3.9
Norfolk	233	2	212	-	211	1	1	3,559	10,733	3.0
Northamptonshire	149	5	148	-	226	1	3	2,324	6,834	2.9
Northumbria	192	2	208	1	133	1	8	3,355	7,926	2.4
North Yorkshire	272	1	352	-	246	-	7	5,377	12,748	2.4
Nottinghamshire	152	3	112	-	98	1	3	1,752	6,012	3.4
South Yorkshire	120	6	103	1	106	-	5	1,538	4,523	2.9
Staffordshire	236	2	77	1	108	-	7	2,466	7,461	3.0
Suffolk	173	1	236	-	172	-	3	3,574	7,792	2.2
Surrey	206	2	159	-	136	-	2	2,716	9,396	3.5
Sussex	365	5	231	1	3	-	10	5,491	17,024	3.1
Thames Valley	381	7	402	-	-	2	6	5,923	17,869	3.0
Warwickshire	122	-	117	-	126	-	-	1,815	5,098	2.8
West Mercia	479	5	312	-	259	-	8	5,807	15,697	2.7
West Midlands	251	-	97	-	11	-	4	1,772	5,968	3.4
West Yorkshire	217	5	183	-	195	-	3	2,543	7,392	2.9
Wiltshire	220	-	185	-	-	-	4	2,757	7,663	2.8
Dyfed-Powys	257	7	202	-	6	3	10	3,183	6,033	1.9
Gwent	68	-	31	-	2	1	2	970	2,779	2.9
North Wales	122	3	99	-	95	-	1	2,357	4,652	2.0
South Wales	119	1	368	-	106	-	5	1,737	5,594	3.2
All forces	9,055	142	8,311	10	5,646	33	258	126,402	358,352	2.8

Table 4

Shotgun certificates: applications for grant and revocations, 2004/05; certificates on issue at 31 March 2005 by police force area, England and Wales

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	714	17	1,751	-	37	20,491	48,656	2.4
Bedfordshire	269	5	508	1	2	6,578	15,792	2.4
Cambridgeshire	479	1	1,104	-	13	13,095	33,478	2.6
Cheshire	396	11	1,085	1	15	12,027	27,675	2.3
Cleveland	106	-	255	-	2	2,399	5,482	2.3
Cumbria	292	5	792	-	3	9,910	21,692	2.2
Derbyshire	587	5	846	-	12	11,902	30,502	2.6
Devon and Cornwall	1,182	14	2,920	-	21	31,856	73,856	2.3
Dorset	728	-	1,065	-	4	10,938	26,624	2.4
Durham	260	7	518	-	9	5,952	13,143	2.2
Essex	896	5	1,938	2	18	20,490	47,352	2.3
Gloucestershire	360	8	604	-	13	10,855	25,979	2.4
Greater Manchester	383	7	744	-	7	8,403	19,226	2.3
Hampshire	896	22	1,784	11	42	21,139	50,070	2.4
Hertfordshire	464	12	670	-	12	10,129	24,395	2.4
Humberside	383	9	863	-	15	9,952	26,636	2.7
Kent	850	24	1,539	-	8	21,092	49,591	2.4
Lancashire	482	16	976	3	20	11,510	27,299	2.4
Leicestershire	381	9	952	1	19	10,763	27,931	2.6
Lincolnshire	478	59	1,100	2	14	15,140	41,078	2.7
London, City of	1	-	1	-	-	26	36	1.4
Merseyside	124	2	275	-	1	3,652	7,479	2.0
Metropolitan Police	1,559	80	2,458	-	163	25,948	83,405	3.2
Norfolk	667	6	1,718	1	16	20,931	56,460	2.7
Northamptonshire	357	9	800	-	12	9,509	23,238	2.4
Northumbria	380	14	611	1	21	8,884	21,855	2.5
North Yorkshire	547	3	1,517	1	9	18,034	39,406	2.2
Nottinghamshire	383	8	769	-	6	8,784	23,404	2.7
South Yorkshire	447	26	610	3	26	8,084	17,236	2.1
Staffordshire	464	6	413	1	19	13,335	31,193	2.3
Suffolk	509	4	1,436	-	16	17,016	41,894	2.5
Surrey	604	4	987	-	9	12,693	29,127	2.3
Sussex	760	14	1,140	-	20	20,814	48,968	2.4
Thames Valley	1,085	13	2,398	-	16	26,752	63,343	2.4
Warwickshire	347	2	682	-	3	8,834	20,373	2.3
West Mercia	969	13	2,026	2	25	28,949	70,041	2.4
West Midlands	1,343	3	690	-	20	9,020	19,301	2.1
West Yorkshire	505	13	936	2	8	10,401	23,887	2.3
Wiltshire	493	3	1,099	1	8	12,249	30,060	2.5
Dyfed-Powys	602	19	1,220	-	47	17,328	35,701	2.1
Gwent	155	1	189	-	3	6,064	13,899	2.3
North Wales	289	8	518	1	4	12,974	28,853	2.2
South Wales	250	9	2,070	1	7	7,495	18,342	2.4
Total	23,426	496	46,577	35	745	572,397	1,383,958	2.4

Table 5 Firearms dealers: applications for registration and removals from register, 2004/05; dealers registered 31 March 2005 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	4	-	33	-	4	54
Bedfordshire	3	-	10	-	3	14
Cambridgeshire	1	-	13	-	4	27
Cheshire	1	-	11	-	2	24
Cleveland	-	-	7	-	-	11
Cumbria	1	-	17	-	3	32
Derbyshire	4	-	26	-	5	41
Devon and Cornwall	3	1	55	-	11	91
Dorset	1	-	21	-	1	42
Durham	4	-	9	-	-	16
Essex	5	-	64	-	4	99
Gloucestershire	2	-	17	-	4	26
Greater Manchester	1	-	15	-	2	38
Hampshire	5	-	28	-	6	57
Hertfordshire	5	-	25	-	4	60
Humberside	2	-	19	-	2	36
Kent	6	1	42	-	3	78
Lancashire	19	-	-	-	21	32
Leicestershire	4	-	18	-	1	33
Lincolnshire	5	1	28	-	5	49
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	1
Merseyside	-	2	8	-	2	10
Metropolitan Police	16	-	40	-	-	151
Norfolk	3	-	25	-	1	40
Northamptonshire	4	-	18	-	4	29
Northumbria	3	-	16	-	4	30
North Yorkshire	2	-	23	-	5	44
Nottinghamshire	1	-	21	-	4	29
South Yorkshire	1	-	10	-	2	20
Staffordshire	3	-	20	-	3	33
Suffolk	-	-	16	-	-	43
Surrey	6	-	44	-	13	90
Sussex	5	-	55	-	8	82
Thames Valley	10	-	82	-	10	127
Warwickshire	1	-	17	-	1	28
West Mercia	8	-	54	-	2	98
West Midlands	3	-	46	-	1	64
West Yorkshire	5	-	22	-	3	38
Wiltshire	7	-	21	-	5	59
Dyfed-Powys	7	-	14	-	7	32
Gwent	1	-	11	-	1	14
North Wales	2	-	17	-	2	22
South Wales	3	-	4	-	1	23
Total	167	5	1,042	-	164	1,967

Table 6 Firearms dealers: applications for registration and renewal, granted and refused; dealers registered ⁽¹⁾

Numbers					
Year	Applications for registration from dealers				Dealers Registered ⁽²⁾
	Previously unregistered		Previously registered		
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	
1992	184	3	1,900	11	2,380
1993	161	13	140	1	2,440
1994	165	7	120	1	2,520
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	1050	-	1,970

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

2. Figures have been rounded.

Table 7 Visitors' firearm permits: applications for groups and individuals, persons and weapons covered by certificates by police force area, 2004/05

Police force area	New applications					Weapons covered by new applications	Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications				Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Persons covered by group applications			
Avon and Somerset	63	-	3	-	23	65	-	-
Bedfordshire	12	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
Cambridgeshire	1	-	4	-	11	12	-	-
Cheshire	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	19	-	-	-	-	26	-	-
Derbyshire	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	15	-	2	-	4	24	-	-
Dorset	47	-	58	-	208	297	2	-
Durham	12	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Essex	3	-	4	-	10	17	-	-
Gloucestershire	12	-	1	-	3	13	-	-
Greater Manchester	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Hampshire	92	-	4	-	28	182	2	-
Hertfordshire	15	-	-	-	-	19	-	-
Humberside	7	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Kent	10	-	12	-	20	40	-	-
Lancashire	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Leicestershire	6	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Lincolnshire	6	-	3	-	4	14	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Metropolitan Police	11	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Norfolk	14	-	1	-	2	23	-	-
Northamptonshire	5	-	8	-	19	34	-	-
Northumbria	49	-	-	-	-	60	-	-
North Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Nottinghamshire	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	14	-	2	-	6	14	-	-
Staffordshire	13	-	2	-	6	42	-	-
Suffolk	46	-	22	-	60	147	-	-
Surrey	148	-	47	-	655	1,464	-	-
Sussex	63	-	-	-	-	85	-	-
Thames Valley	38	-	22	-	68	128	-	-
Warwickshire	2	-	8	-	36	68	-	-
West Mercia	23	-	1	-	3	48	-	-
West Midlands	38	-	-	-	-	161	-	-
West Yorkshire	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Wiltshire	109	-	-	-	-	141	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Gwent	14	-	-	-	-	14	4	-
North Wales	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
South Wales	1	-	2	-	10	18	-	-
Total	926	-	206	-	1,176	3,238	8	-

Table 8 Visitors' shotgun permits: applications for groups and individuals, persons and weapons covered by certificate by police force area, 2004/05

Police force area	New applications						Variation applications	
	On behalf of individuals		Group applications			Weapons covered by new applications	Granted	Refused
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Persons covered by group applications			
Avon and Somerset	106	-	7	-	80	259	-	-
Bedfordshire	84	-	1	-	8	204	-	-
Cambridgeshire	11	-	1	-	6	24	-	-
Cheshire	24	-	1	-	2	35	-	-
Cleveland	7	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Cumbria	96	-	-	-	-	243	-	-
Derbyshire	11	-	7	-	7	35	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	51	-	18	-	73	257	-	-
Dorset	39	-	50	-	165	461	3	-
Durham	43	-	2	-	15	104	-	-
Essex	22	-	15	-	74	131	-	-
Gloucestershire	93	-	8	-	42	210	-	-
Greater Manchester	45	-	-	-	-	58	-	-
Hampshire	271	-	28	-	334	1,187	3	-
Hertfordshire	60	-	-	-	-	112	-	-
Humberside	89	-	-	-	-	190	-	-
Kent	29	-	30	-	81	236	-	-
Lancashire	28	-	-	-	-	63	-	-
Leicestershire	33	-	8	-	8	63	-	-
Lincolnshire	25	-	33	-	119	195	-	-
London, City of	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Merseyside	7	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Metropolitan Police	244	-	-	-	-	556	-	-
Norfolk	78	-	21	-	88	295	-	-
Northamptonshire	20	-	10	-	34	80	-	-
Northumbria	131	1	3	-	33	380	-	-
North Yorkshire	73	-	44	-	211	612	-	-
Nottinghamshire	8	-	1	-	7	26	-	-
South Yorkshire	11	-	1	-	2	31	-	-
Staffordshire	17	-	-	-	-	32	-	-
Suffolk	73	-	64	-	236	450	-	-
Surrey	109	-	108	-	913	2,130	-	-
Sussex	305	-	1	-	7	569	-	-
Thames Valley	159	-	106	-	393	976	-	-
Warwickshire	8	-	6	-	28	54	-	-
West Mercia	91	-	17	-	87	267	-	-
West Midlands	161	-	-	-	-	243	-	-
West Yorkshire	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wiltshire	269	-	3	-	25	602	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	6	-	10	-	29	46	-	-
Gwent	44	-	2	-	5	117	6	-
North Wales	14	-	14	-	84	132	-	-
South Wales	4	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Total	3,002	1	620	-	3,196	11,694	12	-

Table 9 Visitors' permits: applications granted for individuals and groups, 2004/05

Numbers (rounded)

Year	On behalf of individuals	Group applications		Total persons covered	Total weapons covered
		Number granted	Persons covered		
Firearms					
1993	800	170	1,540	2,340	4,420
1994	990	130	1,000	1,990	3,830
1995	960	150	1,000	1,960	3,700
1996	1,210	170	1,190	2,400	4,890
1997	1,170	160	930	2,100	3,500
1998	1,380	170	970	2,350	3,300
1999	1,200	150	720	1,920	2,350
2000	1,410	150	870	2,280	3,500
2001	1,080	120	560	1,630	2,710
2002/03	1,520	160	710	2,220	3,040
2003/04	960	160	850	1,810	3,310
2004/05	930	210	1,180	2,110	3,240
Shotguns					
1993	2,530	480	2,740	5,270	8,760
1994	2,760	510	2,940	5,700	9,560
1995	2,850	500	3,000	5,850	10,200
1996	3,820	550	3,300	7,120	10,900
1997	3,380	570	3,190	6,570	11,800
1998	3,560	570	3,580	7,140	11,600
1999	3,430	640	2,990	6,420	10,370
2000	2,860	630	3,130	5,990	10,570
2001	2,530	580	2,740	5,260	9,510
2002/03	2,860	640	2,830	5,680	10,210
2003/04	2,720	580	3,060	5,780	10,520
2004/05	3,000	620	3,200	6,200	11,690

Table 10 European firearm passes: applications for grant, renewal and variation, and cancellations during 2004/05; passes on issue 31 March 2005 by police force area

Police force area	Applications			Cancellations	Passes on issue at 31 March
	Grant of new certificate	Renewal of certificate	Variation of certificate		
Avon and Somerset	74	-	-	19	311
Bedfordshire	31	1	-	8	139
Cambridgeshire	34	4	-	18	209
Cheshire	44	3	-	6	191
Cleveland	1	-	-	1	31
Cumbria	9	-	-	4	57
Derbyshire	25	16	-	9	231
Devon and Cornwall	73	25	-	30	405
Dorset	46	21	-	-	203
Durham	17	1	-	1	62
Essex	134	15	2	28	555
Gloucestershire	32	11	-	9	240
Greater Manchester	49	-	-	10	203
Hampshire	101	30	36	28	837
Hertfordshire	49	9	-	10	294
Humberside	14	10	-	-	108
Kent	102	7	-	33	711
Lancashire	46	11	-	11	217
Leicestershire	19	5	-	7	197
Lincolnshire	55	4	-	8	157
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	1	-	1	-	49
Metropolitan Police	308	23	-	-	2,051
Norfolk	52	1	-	7	90
Northamptonshire	41	15	-	13	229
Northumbria	14	-	-	3	106
North Yorkshire	62	17	-	12	236
Nottinghamshire	26	1	-	8	112
South Yorkshire	20	4	-	15	128
Staffordshire	30	1	-	33	196
Suffolk	85	2	4	-	121
Surrey	90	61	-	30	722
Sussex	80	10	-	24	854
Thames Valley	153	97	-	31	957
Warwickshire	25	12	-	6	216
West Mercia	76	20	-	21	396
West Midlands	45	12	-	8	310
West Yorkshire	39	1	-	29	164
Wiltshire	70	-	-	9	379
Dyfed-Powys	31	5	1	4	120
Gwent	22	3	-	3	126
North Wales	30	12	5	23	140
South Wales	51	6	-	9	190
Total	2,306	476	49	528	13,250

Table 11 Article 7 Authorities: applications for grant, variations and cancellations during 2004/05, by police force area

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derbyshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dorset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancashire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicestershire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northamptonshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nottinghamshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Staffordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surrey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thames Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warwickshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Mercia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Yorkshire	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wiltshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gwent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	2

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS (RDS)

MISSION STATEMENT

2005

RDS is part of the Home Office. RDS staff are embedded within delivery groups working closely with front-line staff. The HO Chief Scientific Advisor, who is also Director of RDS, oversees professional development for RDS teams, quality assurance and strategic R & D issues.

The Home Office's purpose is to build a safe, just and tolerant society in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced and the protection and security of the public are maintained.

RDS includes staff within the Government Statistical Service (GSS). One of the GSS aims is to inform Parliament and the members of the public about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed.

Therefore -

Research Development and Statistics in the Home Office improves 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.