ThankyouforrespondingtotheLocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee'sCallforEvidenceontheAir WeaponsandLicensing(Scotland)Bill. AllsubmissionswillbeexaminedandconsideredaspartoftheCommittee's scrutinyoftheBill.

Pleasebeawarethatquestionsmarkedwithanasterisk(*)requireananswerbeforeyoucansubmittheform.

FollowtheLocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee'sTwitterfeed-allCommitteetweetsonthisBillwillhave thehashtag#aw&lbill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name: [ Anonymous ]
Organisation:
Address 1:
Address 2:
City/Town:
Postcode:
Country:
Email address (if no email leave blank):
Phone Number:
2. Please confirm that you have read and understood the Scottish Parliaments “Policy on the treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees”:

✔ Yes

3. Please confirm whether you are content for your name to be published with your submission:

☐ Yes

✔ No

4. Which of the three categories below best describes your interest in the Bill (please tick only one)?

✔ Personal

☐ Professional

☐ Commercial

5. Do you wish your email to be added to the Committee’s distribution list for updates on progress of the Bill:

✔ Yes

☐ No
6. Invitations to give oral evidence to the Committee on the Bill will be based on the submissions received. If you wish your submission to be included amongst those considered for possible invitation to give oral evidence, please indicate here.

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. You may answer questions on the entire Bill, or on any part of the Bill. Please indicate which parts of the Bill you are responding to? (You may select as many options that apply).

☐ All of the Bill

☐ Equalities, climate change and other Scottish Government objectives

☑ Air Weapons

☐ General licensing issues

☐ Alcohol licensing

☐ Civic licensing – taxi/private hire car licensing

☐ Civic licensing – scrap metal dealers

☐ Civic licensing – theatre licensing

☐ Civic licensing – sexual entertainment venues
1. Air Weapons Licensing

You may respond to all the questions or only those you have a specific interest in. (Text boxes have no word limit, they will increase in size accordingly).

13. In what ways will the creation of an air weapons licensing system in Scotland contribute to preserving public order and safety, reducing crime and advancing public health policy?

IT WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT BY DIVERTING POLICE RESOURCES AWAY FROM SERIOUS CRIME

PRESENT CRIMINAL & IRRESPONSIBLE USERS WILL REMAIN UNAFFECTED BY ANY NEW SYSTEM: AS THEY ARE ALREADY IGNORING THE PRESENT RULES, GOVERNING USE OF AIRGUNS, CONTAINED IN THE VARIOUS FIREARMS ACTS & OTHER LAWS.

14. Is there sufficient provision, or sufficient capacity to provide, suitable numbers of air weapons clubs across all areas of Scotland for use by registered air weapons owners/users?

I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY PROVISION AT PRESENT FOR SUCH CLUBS, NOR MEASURES FOR ANY NEW CLUBS TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT, TO ALLOW LEGAL OWNERS TO COMPLY WITH PROPOSED GOVERNMENT CHANGES

BEING ABLE TO PURSUE THE HOBBY ON PRIVATE LAND, AS AT PRESENT, IS FAR BETTER AND MORE COST EFFECTIVE THAN MAKING PEOPLE TRAVEL TO CLUBS WHICH MAY WELL HAVE LIMITED OPERATING HOURS.

15. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those using air weapons for personal/recreational use?

I PREDICT THAT THIS LACK OF FACILITIES WILL RESULT IN A HUGE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE LEGAL USERS OF AIRGUNS, WHO WILL BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LEGAL RIGHT TO PURSUE THEIR HOBBY.
16. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those aged 14 to 17 who use air weapons?

THE PRESENT SYSTEM HAS BEEN IN PLACE FOR OVER 40 YEARS, AND HELPS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE SUPERVISED LEARNING, IN A RELAXED HOME ENVIRONMENT – IF SO SUITABLE

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL JUST PRESENT MORE HURDLES TOWARD YOUNG PEOPLE WISHING TO TAKE UP A NEW HOBBY & HAVE ZERO IMPACT ON THE IRRESPONSIBLE YOUTHS MISUSING AIRGUNS AT PRESENT

17. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those using air weapons for commercial/professional reasons (for example: for pest control; as part of the tourist/hunting season; as part of fairs, paintballing centre, entertainment sector etc.)?

MORE LAYERS OF GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE/ BUREAUCRACY WILL BE ADDED – THEREFORE ADDING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS BOTH FINANCIALLY & IN TERMS OF MAN HOURS

THE COSTS WIL BE ADDED TO THE END USERS

18. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those using air weapons for competitive sporting purposes?

THE AFFECT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE BAN ON INTERNATIONAL .22 PISTOLS, IT WILL KILL SPORTING USE: AS AT PRESENT PEOPLE CAN PRACTICE AT HOME AT A TIME THAT IS CONVENIENT TO THEM. THIS OPTION WILL BE TAKEN AWAY BY THE NEW SYSTEM & WILL ALL BUT END SCOTTISH SHOOTERS TAKING MEDALS IN COMPETITION

19. Is it equitable for those applying for an air weapons certificate to pay a fee which cannot be refundable irrespective of whether a certificate is granted or not?
NO – IT IS NOT EQUITABLE, FAIR OR REASONABLE. THE LEGAL SPORTING USER SHOULD HAVE NO FEES TO PAY AT ALL, AS NOW

20. Will the air weapons licensing system have a positive or negative impact on other areas of the public sector in Scotland (eg. The work of local government, public agencies etc.)?

NEGATIVE IMPACT.

IT WILL BE SEEN AS DRACONIAN “BIG BROTHER” GOVERNMENT-FROM-THE-TOP-DOWN, AS POLLS ALREADY SHOW THE PUBLIC ARE MASSIVELY OPPOSED TO THE LICENSING SYSTEM

21. What, if any, might the unintended consequences of introducing an air weapons licensing system in Scotland be?

IT WILL BE EASIER TO BE GRANTED A LICENCE FOR A SHOTGUN THAN AN “AIR WEAPON” – SO PEOPLE WILL FIND IT EASIER TO TAKE UP SHOTGUN SHOOTING AS A HOBBY INSTEAD. THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN WILL CRIPPLE WHOEVER GETS TASKED WITH IT

22. Do you have any other comments to make on air weapons licensing aspects of the Bill?

THE BILL WILL BE A BIGGER WHITE ELEPHANT THAN THE EDINBURGH TRAM FIASCO & MAKE SCOTLAND THE MOST RESTRICTIVE COUNTRY IN EUROPE FOR THE SHOOTING SPORTS HOBBY...

IT WILL DIVERT RESOURCES AWAY FROM MAINSTREAM POLICING.

IT WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE PERCEPTION OF HOLYROOD AS BEING THERE TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND.

PRESENT ILLEGAL USERS OF AIRGUNS WILL CARRY ON REGARDLESS AS THEY ARE ALREADYIGNORING THE CURRENT FIREARMS ACTS