Thank you for responding to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee’s Call for Evidence on the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. All submissions will be examined and considered as part of the Committee’s scrutiny of the Bill.

Please be aware that questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer before you can submit the form.

Follow the Local Government and Regeneration Committee’s Twitter feed - all Committee tweets on this Bill will have the hashtag #aw&lbill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name: 
D Garvin

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. Equalities, Climate Change and other Scottish Government objectives

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).

8. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications for meeting Scotland's climate change commitments? Please explain.

9. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications for meeting Scotland's equality and/or human rights commitments? Please explain.

10. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications for preventative spending and/or public services reform? Please explain.

11. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications in relation to European Union issues? Please explain.
12. Do you have any other comments on the impact of the proposals contained in the Bill relation to Scottish Government objectives?
2. 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 not. Criminals will continue to misuse airguns and the law-abiding airgunner, who is not responsible for criminal misuse of airguns, will pay the price. Crime will not be reduced and public health will not be advanced.

This policy is a gross over-reaction to a public nuisance whose scale has declined very significantly in recent years without licensing. It will not be effective and represents a waste of public money and police time.

This policy has a political dimension to its origins, in that Mr MacAskill has publicly allied himself with anti-airgun campaigns and campaigners, and does not seek to represent the whole community, which includes sporting and casual airgunners, who are overwhelmingly opposed to licensing.

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?

No comment.

15. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those using air weapons for personal/recreational use?
It will be a deterrent to the lawful use of airguns.

By prohibiting the casual use of airguns in private spaces, known as ‘plinking’, it will restrict a harmless activity that is already governed by laws to protect the public. It therefore represents an intolerable infringement of privacy.

16. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those aged 14 to 17 who use air weapons?

No comment.

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.)?

No comment.

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

At very least it will reduce the pool of those who enjoy shooting airguns casually, from which competitive shooters are drawn.
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.

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.)?

It will have a negative impact in so far as it will cost police time with no foreseeable gain in improved public order.

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

It may have an impact on the numbers of visitors to Scotland.

It will encourage a sense of an over-wheening, intrusive government that acts on behalf of small but vocal sections of the population and rides roughshod over less vocal sections of the population.

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