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 #awlbill.

**1. Please supply your name and contact details:**

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Fiona Dove</th>
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Local Government and Regeneration Committee — Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill

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

Please see above at (15). This age bracket are probably the ones who will be most adversely affected due to their lower incomes and lesser ability to travel to reach approved clubs to practise their sport.

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.)?

It is my belief that the proposed licensing system will adversely affect commercial/professional users due to increased operating costs. This will in turn knock-on to reduce profits or even, in the worst case, make the difference between making a living and making a loss.

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

Traditionally, air rifle shooting is the main entry route for young competitive shooters to come into the sport. By imposing considerable costs on young shooters (travel, secure storage, license costs) it may prevent some people from competing at all.

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?

I do not think this is equitable. It would be more equitable to refund part of the fee, allowing for retention of sufficient funds to cover the cost of paperwork, background checks and inspections.