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: Hugh Hunter
Organisation: SPA National Coach
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
Name/Organisation:

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.

Airgun shooting has no detrimental effect on the Climate

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

The requirement to pay for and be subject to Police vetting. The added burden and stress on law abiding citizens. The loss to the public through the cost of compensation and the administration of surrender, is disproportionate to the benefit to the public.
It does not address the criminal use of air weapons. It does curtail the harmless use of air weapons
The only and similar, use of such measures was at the time of intense anti-terrorist activity in Ulster and so this is implying that we treat the people of Scotland as potential terrorists

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

The cost of compensation for weapons plus the administration of the surrender disposal then the expense of the licensing system is an avoidable expense
11. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications in relation to European Union issues? Please explain.

This bill would be a new base starting point the classification of controlled weapons and has been rejected by other countries of the EU

12. Do you have any other comments on the impact of the proposals contained in the Bill relation to Scottish Government objectives?

The Government objective of reducing the Criminal use of firearms will not be served well by licensing and may be seen as just another useless gesture and will potentially become a discredit as such
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?

The law abiding citizen will comply, but that will not demonstrate any benefit, but they will be made a criminal for some simple non-criminal deed which will become criminal by this bill. e.g. forgetting to renew his licence.

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?

The Dunblane legacy has been difficult for pistol shooters in Scotland. We carry an association with one of the biggest and worst criminal acts in living memory and politically pistol shooting has suffered. I have personally represented Scotland at four Commonwealth Games and never ever received financial support from Scotland. Rifle and Shotgun has thrived but, no money is no provision.

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

This will be another threat to the law abiding individual. We already have sensible restrictions on where and how we shoot, age related conditions on permission to posses, own, use and store. Licensing is just going to be another cost and inhibitor.
16. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those aged 14 to 17 who use air weapons?

Shooting is a discrete activity largely for security reasons, and attracting young people into the sport is mainly by invitation and demonstration. It would not be practicable if the novice had to have a licence before they could try the sport. 14 to 17 year olds are already subject to restrictions which are workable.

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 will just another cost for the enjoyment of the above identified activities.

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

As above.

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?
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 add cost to the already overstressed budget of the Police and Government agencies.

No positive effect for government other than propaganda.

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

It will diminish the opportunities of people who do not have the in-built attributes of muscular or athletic sport and the disabled, to enter and enjoy a sport that particularly suites them. Any size, any shape and any age can compete.

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

Other than to criminalise some good people who have no intention to behave in a criminal fashion this bill will not reduce unlawful and criminal harm.

I am very supportive of government objectives regarding criminal behaviour and as a retired Police officer I believe we have very adequate powers to achieve those objectives.