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:**

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Submission ID NUMBER

30
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
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.)?

Much more work for the police and the courts.

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

Many people will apply for a FAC or SGC.

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

The Scottish government has completely failed to provide any evidence at all that air gun misuse is a problem in Scotland. The Justice minister is on record as saying that there are many communities in Scotland that are blighted by air gun crime yet he has provided no evidence to back up these claims. As they were only 171 reported offences involving air guns in the whole of Scotland last year [a record all time low] these claims are hard to believe.
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.

Yes it will mean more traffic journeys as thousands of air gun shooters travel to and from clubs.

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

Yes many disabled shooters who presently shoot at home will be unable to travel or gain access to gun clubs or afford it for that matter.

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

Yes the police will have a mountain of new work.
11. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications in relation to European Union issues? Please explain.

Could well break the HRA namely the right to property. Due to the retrospective catch 22 nature of this bill thousands of people will in effect have their previously legally held property Confiscated from them for no compensation.

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

This is clearly part of Scottish governments attempt to reduce public gun ownership to the lowest possible degree.
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?

None new laws will INCREASE air gun offences.

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 for example most if not all the Scottish Islands have no air gun clubs.

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

It will ban members of the public from shooting on or in their own private land and property.
16. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those aged 14 to 17 who use air weapons?

As they are to be banned from getting a AWC they well may apply for a FAC or SGC which they are allowed to do.

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 make it more expensive.

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

It will prevent young people from taking up the sport.

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 must be the same as for FAC and SGC applications. Also I am confused all the previous questions refer to air weapon licence whereas this question refers to air weapon certificate as a licence and certificate have different legal meanings which is it going to be?