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

Pleasebeawarethatquestionsmarkedwithanasterisk(*)requireananswerbeforeyoucansubmittheform.

FollowtheLocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee'sTwitterfeed-allCommitteeetweetsonthisBillwillhave thehashtag#aw&lbill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name: Grant Webster
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?

I feel that any benefit would be minimal and the cost of administering such a licensing system would far out weigh any benefit. It may also serve to increase the number of firearm and shotgun certificate applications, where people feel that if they must submit to a formal licence, they may as well apply for either a FAC or SC as the qualifying criteria will be similar.

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?

In respect of the number of airguns currently in use in Scotland, I would think not.

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

The feelings at the moment (although not 100% sure) will be that air guns will have to be used only on licensed ranges as part of a club activity, or for pest control on private land with the landowners consent. Private safe use in the owners garden ill be illegal?? This is probably one of the largest uses of air guns, training youngsters who may well go on the firearms in later life.
16. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those aged 14 to 17 who use air weapons?

Greater degree of supervision will be required

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.)?

People current using air guns for pest control will be forced to apply for a licence to use their air guns. On private land with owner consent. They can currently do this without a licence. I would not use the word hunting and air guns in the same sentence. In my opinion low powered air guns are only suitable for small pests. I haven’t given a lot of thought to paintballing fairs etc.

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

It will, drive down the numbers of people competing, particularly those with limited budgets.

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 (millions of law abiding individuals use air guns at the moment, why should they have to pay a fee to continue to do so?)

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.)?

I would say a negative effect, certainly on those with the responsibility to oversee the licensing arrangements. Already overworked individuals with little support due to financing will find themselves facing an even greater workload.

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

AS mentioned previously, if people are going to have to apply for a licence, which has similar requirements to a FAC or SC, they may well apply for one, thus increasing the number of Firearms and Shotguns in circulation.

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

Limited funding would be more wisely spent in other areas, such as health, education or social work.