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: Andrew Cockburn
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. 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?

Considering crime in respect to air guns has fallen in the Government's own figures further controls are unnecessary, costly and given that there are estimated to be over 500,000 airguns in Scotland, difficult to enforce.

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, not at present.

Scope should be made in the act for lawful use on owners own property, as the current legislation allows.

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

Additional cost, loss of use on own property.
16. How will the air weapons licensing system affect those aged 14 to 17 who use air weapons?

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.)?

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

Restrict opportunity for practice outside competitive venues.

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, the system works perfectly well at the moment. If the Scottish Government wishes individuals to be licensed then the government should burden the cost.
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.)?

Negative. Ridiculous use of precious resources administering the legislation.

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

Increase in Shotgun and Firearms certificate applications, if owning an airgun becomes a more involved process. Increase in SGC and FAC applications would use even more manpower in Police Scotland Firearms Department.

Possible criminalisation of people with air rifles in the attic who were unaware of the act.

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

This bill seeks to address a problem which simply does not exist to the degree that makes this legislation worthwhile.