



Safeguarding Key Messages

February 2019

Firearms Edition



Overview

The licensing of firearms, shotguns and explosives is carried out by the joint West Mercia and Warwickshire Firearms Licensing Unit, based in Malvern.

What is an FEO?

A Firearms Enquiry Officer (FEO) is responsible for investigation issues related to firearms, to make sure they are in compliance with United Kingdom gun laws.

FEOs carry out personal visits to applicants' homes as part of the application process for firearms or shotgun licence, or explosives certificate, to ensure that they meet the legal requirements as to secure storage of the weapons or explosives. They also carry out background checks on applicants for firearms licenses to ensure that the applicant has no previous record of firearms-related crimes or history of mental instability.

FEOs also make visits to the homes of licensed firearm owners, shooting clubs and [registered firearms dealers](#) to assess the security that the firearms are kept in; if this is not up to standard the licence may be put in jeopardy.

Who oversees firearm concerns in Worcestershire?

FEO Malvern and South Herefordshire

John Hunter is the Firearms Enquiry Officer for Malvern and South Herefordshire. **John covers the following areas:** Pickersleigh; Upton; Link and Dyson; Chase and Priors; Belmont Southside; Golden Valley; Hereford City Southside and Rural; Hereford City Northside, Ledbury and Ross on Wye.

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FEO South Worcestershire

Andy Stinton is the Firearms Enquiry Officer for South Worcestershire

Andy covers: Kempsey and Alfrick; Cathedral; Pershore Town; Evesham Rural North; Warndon; Gorse Hill and Rainbow Hill; St Johns and Bedwardine; Arboretum and Claines; Battenhall and Nunnery; Evesham Town South and Rural West; Evesham Town North and Rural South; Pershore Rural South and Rural North; Droitwich Town East and Rural East; Droitwich Town West and Rural West

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FEO North Worcestershire

Clive Williams is the Firearms Enquiry Officer for North Worcestershire.

Clive covers the following areas: Abbey; Church Hill; Headless Cross and Oakenshaw; Redditch South West and Rural; Broadwaters; Greenhill; Bewdley and Rural; Bromsgrove St Johns; Alvechurch and Wythall; Winyates and Matchborough; Greenlands and Lodge Park; Batchley and Central; Bromsgrove South and Rural; Bromsgrove North and Rural; Hagley and Rubery; Kidderminster East; Kidderminster North; Odlington, Foley and Sutton Park; Stourport; Bridgnorth Town and Rural

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What action should I take?

- **Immediate Risk – Take Immediate Action - Phone 999**
- **Imminent Risk - phone 999**
- Information disclosed in relation to access to/possession of firearms where risk factors are present – in hours; contact the FEO for the respective area or 101. Remember – if you deem the risk to be high then phone 999

Risk Factors

Factors that increase the risk are;

- Domestic Abuse both past and present
- Alcohol abuse
- Control and coercion, past or present
- Substance misuse
- Mental Health conditions including previous history of suicide attempts
- Children within the family or unborn when the parents have any of the aforementioned risk factors present.

Who might make a disclosure?

- **Anybody**

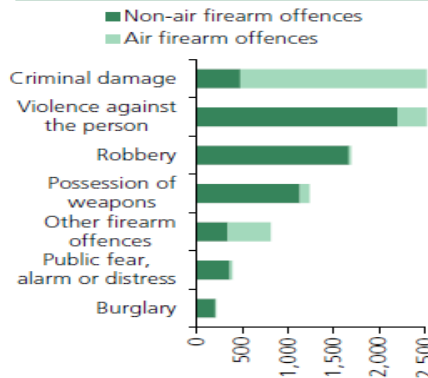
Examples:

- a) Patient admitted to hospital who discloses to staff that prior to admission they were considering taking their own life and a loaded firearm is at home under the pillow. Patient subsequently dies. What would you do???
- Answer:* contact the firearms officer FEO immediately as there may be a risk to others entering the property or wider public risk, i.e. family living at the property/burglary etc...
- b) Community midwife completing booking at home address. The expectant mother has history of self harm and alcohol abuse, including recent admissions to hospital whilst

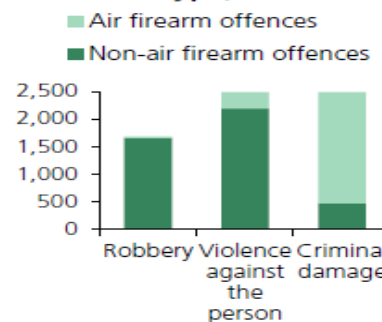
pregnant. Whilst carrying out the booking the father of the unborn discloses he has shotguns. What would you do???

Answer: Immediate risk – 999. Call Named Midwife for Safeguarding. Potential risk of harm not deemed immediate – call FEO and notify Named Midwife for Safeguarding and Specialist Midwife.

3. TYPE OF OFFENCE BY FIREARM TYPE, 2016/17



Type of offence by firearm type, 2016/17



(House of Commons: Firearms and Crime Statistics 2018)

Is Consent needed? – Not always

- Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
- Consider safety and well-being: base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
- Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).
- Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

(HMSO Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers)