



Home Office

22nd March 2012



Statistical News Release

Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2010/11

The latest National Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates in England and Wales are released today. The figures show that there were fewer firearm and shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2011 compared with the end of March 2010. There were 141,347 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2011 a 0.3 per cent decrease compared with a year earlier, and 564,269 shotgun certificates, a three per cent decrease over the same period.

The figures also show that the numbers of new applications granted for both firearm and shotgun certificates during 2010/11 rose by 19 and 21 per cent respectively compared with 2009/10. The increase in certificates issued follows falls in the previous two years.

There were 404 firearm certificates and 1,379 shotgun certificates revoked in 2010/11. For both series, these numbers represent the highest number of revocations since the collection of these data began in 1992.

During 2010/11, there were 2,559 people who were covered by firearm visitors' permits, an increase of 16 per cent compared with 2009/10 and the highest number since the series began. There was also a nine per cent increase in the number of people covered by shotgun visitors' permits, with 7,856 people covered in 2010/11. This represents the second highest number since the series began.

The Statistical Bulletin, 'Firearm Certificates England and Wales 2010/11' also contains statistics at police force area level on numbers of firearm and shotgun certificates on issue under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997.

Notes to editors

'Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2010/11' is available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office Science, research and statistics section of the Home Office website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0512/>

Statistics on recorded offence involving the use of a firearm during 2010/11 are published separately in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0212/>