

4th meeting of the Firearms Expert Committee
1st November 2022
51 St Stephens Green
Minute

Attendees

Chair Emma Meagher Neville
Paul Walsh
Fabian Connolly
John Guinane
Emma Doyle

Secretary Aoife Byrne

1. Introduction.

1.1 The agenda was adopted

1.2 The minutes of the third meeting were agreed.

- Superintendent Doyle advised that AGS continue to view rifles and shotguns with shorter barrels to be unsuitable for licencing. This item will be discussed again in meeting five.

1.2 The report of the third meeting for the Department's website was agreed.

2. Semi-Automatic Centre-fire Rifles.

The Committee discussed the debate of the Criminal Justice Miscellaneous Provisions Bill on 13 October, the day before the FEC discussed the licencing of Semi-Automatic Centre-fire Rifles at its meeting on the 14 October. It was noted that Minister McEntee's closing remarks, which were off the cuff and open to interpretation, could give an inaccurate impression that the Committee has already provided a view on the licencing of Semi-Automatic Centre-fire Rifles and that the members have endorsed the restriction.

The Committee agreed it would clarify its position on the suitability of Semi-Automatic Centre-fire Rifles, though the report of the Committee work which would be posted on the Committee's webpage.

As agreed at its meeting on the 14 October, the Committee's report will reflect the lack of consensus among the members on this issue and each member's position will be outlined. The committee considered a draft section of text prepared for inclusion on this issue and agreed to review it again when the Criminal Justice Miscellaneous Provisions Bill has progressed.

3. 5-shot limit applied to non-restricted handguns

Three members of the Committee considered the appropriateness of the application of the five round limit which is applied to restricted short-firearms.

An Garda Síochána continue to support the application of the five-shot limit to the magazines of rim-fire handguns. The other three members of the Committee support the review or removal of the five shot-limit. The secretary will prepare the Committee's position on this matter, with a view the Committee forming a recommendation on the five round limit in its report.

4. Consider whether firearms certificates should be conditioned to specify the locations where the firearm may be used.

Three members of the Committee agreed that in some circumstances it may be appropriate that conditions are applied to specify the locations where the firearm may be used. The Committee acknowledged there are many factors to be considered to insure that these conditions are practical and appropriate. The secretary will prepare the Committee's position on this matter, with a view the Committee forming recommendations on this proposal in its report.

5. Consider whether firearms certificates should be conditioned to limit the use of the firearm to the purpose for which the firearms certificate was sought.

Three Committee agreed that in some circumstances it may be appropriate that conditions are applied to specify the purpose for which the firearm may be used. The Committee acknowledged there are many factors to be considered to insure that these conditions are practical and appropriate. The secretary will prepare the Committee's position on this matter, with a view the Committee forming recommendations on this proposal in its report.

6. AOB

The Committee agreed the agenda for the next meeting would cover air guns, assault rifles and barrel lengths.

At the suggestion of Mr Connolly it was agreed the Committee will consider including a short recommendation on reloading in its report.

The Committee agreed to meet again on the 28 November at 10.30.