

Eighth Meeting of the Firearms Expert Committee
10 February, 2023
Venue: 51 St Stephens Green

Attendees

Chair: Emma Meagher Neville
Paul Walsh
Fabian Connolly
Inspector Paul Greene
John Guinane
Secretary: Richard Gow

Apologies

Supt Emma Doyle

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The agenda was adopted.
- 1.2 The minutes were discussed and agreed.
- 1.3 The report for the website was agreed.

2. Update from discussions with PSNI

A note of the meeting with the PSNI on 1st February, 2023 was discussed and agreed. The Committee agreed that the answers provided by the PSNI to the Committee's questions would be reflected by the secretary in Reports One and Two, as appropriate.

3. Discussion of Report One.

The Committee discussed the final written comments submitted by its Members on the draft circulated of Report One. The Committee agreed a series of final revisions, which were noted by the secretary. The secretary was asked to note in the report the disagreement of Members on some areas where consensus could not be found.

4. The licencing of add-on devices including silencers and sound moderators, telescope sights, light beams, and telescope thermal-imaging sights.

The Committee discussed the differences between moderators and thermal imagers, the fees charged for these, and current licensing practices. The Committee agreed to defer discussion of the text and recommendations on this matter for Report Two until its ninth meeting.

5. Consider whether qualifications and training should be required in order to be eligible to hold a firearms certificate or to become a registered firearm dealer permitted to repair firearms or make modifications to the functioning of firearms.

The Committee considered the discussion document circulated on this matter and responded to the questions it posed. The Committee agreed that its answers could form the basis of draft text and recommendations for Report Two, to be prepared by the secretary and considered at its ninth meeting.

The Committee considered one external submission made on this topic.

6. AOB

The Committee agreed that the secretary would make the changes agreed to Report One with a view to its finalisation at the ninth meeting. The Committee agreed that Report Two, including draft text and recommendations concerning add-on devices and training to be prepared by the secretary, would be circulated for final written comments in advance of the ninth meeting.

7. Next meeting

The ninth meeting of the Committee is to take place in 51 St Stephen's Green on Friday 3rd March, 2023.