

Firearms licensing questions for and answers from Avon & Somerset Police – 26/04/2024

Question: Is the firearms licensing department sufficiently well-resourced to deliver certificate renewals and grants in a timely manner so that 95% of all renewals and grants are completed within 17 weeks?

Answer: We are currently resourced to be able to complete 95% of renewals within 17 weeks (unless there are delays caused by third parties), but due to the level of work required within the unit we are currently outside of the 17 weeks for grants. We have recently had an uplift in firearms officers to assist with our performance, which was agreed on the basis that we would consider implementing an increase in licencing fees to fund this and ensure compliance within 17 weeks.

Question: Will Avon and Somerset Police be setting up an Independent Advisory Group, where key stakeholders can give feedback to the force on its decisions and performance with respect to firearms licensing. (If one already exists, please provide details on the format).

Answer: At present we do not have an IAG, we have previously had a Community Contact Group, run by members of the shooting community where we were invited to attend, however this meeting was dissolved due to a lack of interest. Currently we have no plans to introduce an IAG as we have many other lag's operating across the Force. We would consider implementing such a group if the community felt that it was something they were willing to invest time in.



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