

Thursday, 10 October 2019

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 6451



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

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**Subject: - General notice to all Air Weapon Club members**

GRAMPIAN AIR RIFLE CLUB

FAO club secretary

I am writing to all air weapon clubs to highlight some issues identified at competition shoots throughout Scotland. Information has been received that persons who are uncertified under the Air Weapon & Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 are attending shooting competitions in possession of their own weapons, or those weapons are being carried into the club by certified members and handed over to those uncertified persons. This information also identifies the issues of persons buying and selling air weapons at events without the required authorisation.

I would like to provide guidance to the relevant Air Weapon legislation.

### **Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015**

**Section 2 (1) It is an offence for a person to use, possess, purchase or acquire an air weapon without an air weapon certificate.**

### **Exemption**

Approved air weapon clubs

It is not an offence under section 2(1) for an individual to use or possess an air weapon without holding an air weapon certificate if--

- a) Is a member of an approved air weapon club,
- b) the use or possess occurs while engaged as such a member--
  - (1) in target shooting at the club, another approved air weapon club, an event or competition, or

- (2) in connection with such target shooting, and
- c) Where a member under 14 years of age use and possession is supervised by another club member aged 21 years or more.

While approved club status allows members to undertake target shooting activities without holding an individual AWC, every individual who own's any air weapon which is home stored must have in their possession an AWC.

### **Air Weapons Transactions.**

Sales and transfers of air weapons are regulated by section 24(2) of the Air Weapon and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015. This requires the person selling or transferring the air weapon—whether they are an RFD or a private seller—to satisfy themselves that the person purchasing or acquiring the air weapon is entitled to do so, either because they are an RFD, hold an AWC or are otherwise exempt from the requirement to hold an AWC.

### **Power to enter and inspect club premises.**

Under section 22 (1) of the 2015 Act, the Chief Constable may, for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the club approval and any conditions attached to it, authorise a constable or member of police staff:

- (a) To enter any club premises of an approved air weapon club, and
- (b) To inspect those premises and anything on them which is relevant to the purposes for which the authorisation was granted.

22 (4) It is an offence for a person to obstruct intentionally a constable or a member of police staff in the exercise of the constable's or member of police staff's powers under an authorisation granted under this section.

Clearly, you will wish to ensure your members of the club comply with the aforementioned legislation and this information is provided to support you in this.

I would be obliged if you could disseminate to all members.

Any issues please contact me by phone or email.



Sergeant Andrew Smith

NFEL.