



Response Date:14/02/2025

2025/178 - Firearms licensing

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- **Will your police force/constabulary be ring-fencing the extra income from the latest firearms licensing fee increase to the firearms licensing functions?**

The budgeted staffing establishment for Firearms Licensing Department has increased from 15 fte in FY22-23 to 20.71 fte budgeted for FY25-26.

Specifically, for FY25/26 as part of the Organisational Planning process a total of two new posts were funded from the additional income made up of a Firearms Enquiry Officer and a Licensing Intel Researcher. In addition to this a further 2 Licensing Intelligence Researcher were repurposed into the Firearms Licensing Department.

The Direct Staffing costs for the unit for FY25/26 is budgeted to be £849k which is far more than the income projected to be generated thus the income generated is fully utilised to fund the Firearms Licensing function.

- **What improvements will you be making to streamline the system and reduce delays in grant and renewal?**

We are currently assessing the impact of the fee increase and will strive to adhere to any requirements suggested or mandated by the Home Office / NPCC Firearms Licensing Lead with regards timelines for non-complex applications. Currently we complete 88% of all applications within 16 weeks. You should note that 16 weeks prior to expiry is the date at which we invite existing holders to reapply. We are currently committed to investing in Robotic Process Automation to improve efficiency within the department.

- **Will you be looking to recruit additional staff and if so how many and in what function?**

We are currently assessing the impact of the fee increase and will continue to review how we operate. The annual strategic demand assessment incorporates resource requirements. We do currently plan to recruit an additional Firearms Enquiry Officer from April 2025.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 13/02/2025