

Lincolnshire Police

Policy Document



Firearms removal policy PD149

Policy document information

Reference number:	PD149
Policy sponsor:	ACC
Policy owner:	Head of Crime
Author:	Firearms Licensing Manager – Mike Alford
Publication date:	May 2025
Review date:	May 2027

Version history

Version	Date	Reason for issue
6	May 2021	Biennial Review
7	May 2023	Biennial Review
8	May 2025	Biennial Review

Code of Ethics

All staff involved in carrying out functions under this policy and associated procedures and appendices will do so in accordance with the principles of the Code of Ethics. The aim of the Code of Ethics is to support each member of the policing profession to deliver the highest professional standards in their service to the public.

Legislative compliance

This document has been drafted to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act. Proportionality has been identified as the key to Human Rights compliance, this means striking a fair balance between the rights of the staff and those of the rest of the community. There must be a reasonable relationship between the aim to be achieved and the means used.

Equality and Diversity issues have also been considered to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and meet our legal obligation in relation to the equality duty. In addition, Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Health and Safety Issues have been considered. Adherence to this policy or procedure will therefore ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and internal policies.

Other legislation/law which this policy has been drafted to comply with:

- [Human Rights Act 1998 \(in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination\)](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [H&S legislation](#)

- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom Of Information Act 2000](#)

Security classification

Policy to be published on Intranet: Yes

Policy to be published on Force Website: Yes

Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

This policy has been checked against APP and there is none in relation to the subject matter of this policy.

1. Policy aims (Purpose)

- 1.1. This policy aims to ensure that Lincolnshire Police has the correct processes in place in respect of the removal of firearms, shotguns and ammunition from certificate holders who come to the notice of the police and where it is considered that there is an imminent and/or overall danger to public safety or to the peace.
- 1.2. The policy also aims to ensure that all members of Lincolnshire Police are fully aware of the procedures that should be adhered to in relation to this important public safety issue. This will ensure that any action taken to remove legally held guns and firearms ammunition or revoke shotgun/firearms certificates, is both lawful and timely.

2. Policy statement (Key information)

2.1. Principles and Scope

- 2.1.1. Lincolnshire Police is committed to ensuring that thorough enquiries are undertaken to ensure that certificates for the possession of firearms, ammunition and shotguns are held only by persons who the Chief Constable

is satisfied do not pose a danger to public safety or the peace as is required by the Firearms Act 1968.

- 2.1.2. On all occasions when a firearm or shotgun certificate holder comes to the notice of the police, a proportionate threat assessment will be conducted to accurately assess any danger to the public safety or the peace.
- 2.1.3. Where it is assessed that there is a danger to public safety or the peace, Lincolnshire Police will ensure that action is taken in a justifiable, proportionate, necessary and auditable way.

2.2. Approach

- 2.2.1. This policy will ensure a consistent approach to dealing with shotgun or firearms certificates holders who come to police attention. This approach will balance the rights of the individual certificate holder with the imperative of public safety.
- 2.2.2. Full guidance for operational police officers and police staff when dealing with shotgun or firearms certificate holders who may pose a danger to themselves, public safety or to the peace is contained in Appendix A. This is supplemented by a process flow chart (Appendix E).

2.3. Promotion/Distribution

- 2.3.1. This policy will be published on the Force Intranet Site and guidance will be published in Routine Orders on a quarterly basis. In addition, all Custody Suites will have a copy available when dealing with the release of individuals. Each FCR Inspector will be briefed by the Firearms Licensing Decision Makers regarding this policy and its application.

3. Other related documents and appendices

- 3.1. Appendices.
 - Appendix A – Procedural Guidance
 - Appendix B – Standard letter for revoking Firearms Certificate

- Appendix C – Standard letter for revoking Shotgun Certificate
- Appendix D – Certificate of Service
- Appendix E – Process Flowchart
- Appendix F – Flowchart Guidance
- Appendix G – Section 46 Firearms Act Guidance
- Appendix H – Declaration of delegated responsibility (FCR Inspectors)

Related documents

- Home Office Firearms Law Guidance to the Police
- Advice from Counsel dated 6th February 2009
- Firearms Licensing APP
- Threat to Life Policy PD167

4. Monitoring and review

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed every two years. Earlier review may be prompted by changes in legislation, guidance or procedures. Amendments will be notified to the force according to the publication/distribution details above. Reviews will cover compliance with the Law, Human Rights, Equality and Diversity issues.

5. Who to contact about this policy

- 5.1. This policy is owned by the Head of Operational Support. Any enquires about this policy should be directed to the Firearms Licensing Manager, Mr Mike Alford, 01522 212380 michael.alford@lincs.police.uk.