

HMIC published its report Targeting the risk on 15th September 2015. It made a number of recommendations which required action by Chief Officers either immediately or within three months (ie by mid December). Please state in respect of each recommendation (see below) what action has been taken and the results, if available. If action has yet to be initiated or is incomplete please state when the recommendation is expected to be implemented and why it was delayed. In respect of recommendation 16 please state what the 'current arrangements' are.

Recommendation 1

Within three months, all chief constables should assess how well the governance of firearms licensing in his or her force meets the standards set out in Authorised Professional Practice. Chief constables of forces where the governance standards are not being complied with should put in place immediately the correct arrangements and procedures in order to meet the standards in full.

Governance meeting structure is in place to include quarterly meetings with both operational leads and the FLU manager

Recommendation 4

Within three months, all chief constables should assess the demand placed on their firearms licensing department and ensure it has the capacity to meet this demand and provide an efficient and effective service at all times.

Preliminary review has taken place where a high demand of work has been identified. Temporary staff have been identified to assist the current peak demand period (this matter will now be reviewed within the governance meeting structure). The situation is being monitored by the Operational Support Senior Management

Recommendation 8

Immediately, all chief constables should satisfy themselves that all appropriate action is being taken by their force with regard to 'total expired' licensing records.

This is completed through the 12 monthly review of the policy document, the process has been completed this year and will continue to be review/monitor on a periodic basis, from 4/09/2015 there were 99 expiries throughout both forces which have been reviewed and processed, standard operating procedures are now in place to ensure that expiries are monitored on a daily basis

Recommendation 9

Within three months, all chief constables should ensure that their arrangements in respect of the use of temporary permits are in accordance with the Home Office guidance; that temporary permits are properly recorded without delay on the National Firearms Licensing Management System; and that effective systems exist to ensure certificate holders are not permitted, at any time, to remain in unlawful possession of a firearm.

A review has been completed and improvement to the issue of temporary permits has been completed. Standard operating procedures will be in place within the time scale to ensure we are compliant with the home office guidance. From 01/01/2016 we are issuing all applicants which are expected to

expire before the due process of renewal is complete with a section 7 temporary permit.

Recommendation 10

Immediately, all chief constables should ensure that effective arrangements are in place for the day-to-day management of Police National Computer error notifications on the National Firearms Licensing Management System, ensuring that the notification requirements are dealt with and that the National Firearms Licensing Management System record is successfully transferred to the Police National Computer.

This is monitored on a daily basis, all errors are dealt with and more staff have been trained to increase resilience

Recommendation 13

Within three months, all chief constables should ensure that systems designed to identify, prior to police attendance, whether a reported incident involves or is at the address of a firearm certificate holder are in place and are always applied by staff dispatching officers to incidents; and that officers understand the risk assessment which they should be undertaking in such circumstances, and their power, when appropriate, to seize firearms and firearm certificates.

Planning and consultation has now been completed with regards to public engagement, 3 meetings will be scheduled as a start point with a 2 year engagement process to commence thereafter. Guidance has been agreed at the Firearms Commanders Meeting Structure, the document will be agreed at the next Governance meeting in February.

Recommendation 16

Within three months, all chief constables should ensure that their current arrangements for public engagement with regard to firearms licensing are practical, proportionate and well known. They need to enable the force to understand the experience of service users and other interested groups. Thereafter, all chief constables should introduce effective systems to consider the results of public engagement to inform the efficiency and effectiveness of their licensing arrangements.

All certificate holders and their addresses are flagged on PNC, locally all certificate holders addresses are flagged on local systems and all staff (who require it) have view access to the National Firearms Licensing Management System. The only final requirement is; the need for some documented advice to be issued to Dos/FIMs as to the powers of the Firearms Act and related legislation and guidance. This will be authorised and issued through the Firearms Commanders Meeting Structure