

# **FIREARMS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2004**

**S.I. 2004 No. 702 (N.I. 3)**

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## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE ORDER**

Much of the 1981 Order was re-enacted, some with amendment. The Order also includes a number of new provisions which will improve public safety and lead to a simpler regulatory regime for the police and shooting enthusiasts. In particular the Order provides the following major changes:

- The replacement of the system of firearm certificate renewals with one of ongoing grants.
- a period of supervised shooting for first time certificate holders and those existing certificate holders seeking to acquire a firearm of a significantly different design or type from one already held;
- an extended firearm certificate from 3 years to 5 years.
- de-certification of low powered air guns (of 1 joule muzzle energy or less) and deactivated firearms;
- provision for the borrowing of shotguns and estate rifles;
- provision for paintball;
- provision for firearms dealers, rather than the Chief Constable, to amend firearm certificates for those persons wishing to substitute one shotgun for another;
- provision for museum firearms licence;
- provision for an increased role for civilian support staff in firearms licensing.