

FIREARMS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2004

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

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

NOTES ON ARTICLES

Schedule 2 – Firearms and ammunition in museums

Provides for all matters pertaining to the grant, variation and revocation of a museum firearms licence to a museum or similar institution which holds or intends to hold for the preservation of the public benefit a collection of firearms. The licence will allow those responsible for the management of a museum or their employees, without holding a firearm certificate, to possess, purchase or acquire for the museum, firearms or ammunition, including prohibited weapons and prohibited ammunition. The Secretary of State can attach conditions to the licence necessary for securing the safe custody of the firearms. Non-compliance constitutes an offence. The licence will operate for 5 years and the Secretary of State will have the power to extend or reduce its duration. He can revoke or vary the licence for which he can require its surrender. Non-compliance of such a requirement constitutes an offence. It will be a defence for anyone charged with an offence to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid such an offence.