

Firearms Licencing – Guide to impact of Criminal Convictions v1.0 (March 2016)

This guide sets out the time period that a person will be disqualified from being the holder of a firearms or shotgun certificate when they have been convicted, cautioned or charged with certain offences.

It should also be noted that any person who is arrested, who is a holder of a firearms or shotgun certificate, will be the subject of a review as to the continued suitability to hold a firearms or shotgun certificate.

Offence	Conviction	Charge or caution	Arrest (see notes)
ABDUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abduction of a girl Kidnapping False Imprisonment 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
ANIMALS/WILDLIFE	Refer to COP	Refer to COP	Refer to Chief of Police
ASSAULTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to kill Poisoning Corrosive Fluid etc. - Throw with Intent to Maim etc. GBH/Wounding with intent GBH/Wounding 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABH Assault on Police Common Assault 	10 years	2 years	Refer to Chief of Police
BURGLARY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burglary with Intent to inflict GBH Trespass with intent to commit a Sexual Offence Aggravated Burglary 	Life	5 years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burglary 	10 years	2 years	Refer to Chief of Police
CRIMINAL DAMAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Damage (including arson) with intent to Endanger Life or Reckless as to whether Life is Endangered 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal damage 	5 years	2 years	Refer to Chief



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arson Threat to destroy property 			of Police
CRUELTY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cruelty/Ill Treatment to a child 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
DEATHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murder/ Manslaughter Infanticide Child Destruction 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
DRUGS CLASS 'A' 'B' OR 'C' DRUG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All non-simple possession 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
CLASS 'A' DRUG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession 	Life	5 years	Refer to Chief of Police
CLASS 'B' OR 'C' DRUG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession 	5 years	2 years	No effect
DRUNKENNESS/SUMMARY OFFENCES	Refer to COP	Refer to COP	No effect
EXPLOSIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosive substances offences (most) 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
FALSE MESSAGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bomb Hoax Sending Malicious Communication False Alarms to Emergency Services Improper use of Telecom Systems 	10 years	2 years	No effect
FIREARMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use firearm to resist arrest Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life/Injure Property Possession of firearm whilst committing offence or with intent to commit offence Possession of firearm within set period of release 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying loaded firearm in public place Trespass in building with loaded firearm 	Life	10 years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person under 17 purchasing firearm or ammunition Having air weapon in public Supply (includes sale) firearm or 	Refer to COP	Refer to COP	Refer to Chief of Police



ammunition to person under 17			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession of firearm/shotgun without certificate a) No certificate ever held	25 years	10 Years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession of firearm/shotgun without certificate b) Following nonrenewal	10 Years	5 Years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making false statement to procure grant, renewal, or variation of firearm/shotgun certificate 	10 years	5 Years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firearm - failure to comply with condition of certificate in relation to security of weapons 	10 Years	5 Years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Firearm offences 	Refer to COP	Refer to COP	Refer to Chief of Police
HARBOURING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbouring/Assist-ing escaped prisoners 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
HARASSMENT	10 years	2 years	Refer to Chief of Police
INTERFERENCE WITH THE COURSE OF JUSTICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conspiracy/Attempt to Pervert the Course of Justice Perjury Bail Personation Escape from Lawful Custody Prison - Escape/aid/assist 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breach of ASBO 	10 years	2 years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breach of other court orders 	10 years	2 years	Refer to Chief of Police
OBSTRUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstruct Police 	5 years	2 years	Refer to Chief of Police
OFFENSIVE WEAPONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession of Offensive Weapon Possession of Sharp Pointed Blade 	Life	10 years	Refer to Chief of Police
PUBLIC ORDER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riot Violent Disorder 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affray Threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour intended to 	10 years	5 years	Refer to Chief of Police



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cause fear of violence or to provoke violence • Incitement to cause racial hatred 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally or otherwise causing harassment, alarm or distress through threatening abusive or insulting words or behaviour or display threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress 	5 years	Refer to COP	No effect
<p>ROAD TRAFFIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing death by dangerous driving • Dangerous Driving 	25 years	10 years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careless driving • Inconsiderate Driving • Excess Alcohol/ Driving when unfit through Drink/Drugs • Refusing to provide specimen of breath/blood/urine at police station • Drunk in Charge 	Refer to COP	Refer to COP	No effect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving Whilst Disqualified • Failing to Stop After Accident/ Failure to Report Accident 	5 Years	Refer to COP	No effect
<p>SEXUAL OFFENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All offences involving physical contact 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other non-physical contact offences 	25 years	10 years	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of indecent photograph or image of a child etc... 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<p>THEFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery/Assault with Intent to Rob • Blackmail 	Life	Life	Refer to Chief of Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft • Taking vehicle without consent • Tampering with Motor Vehicle • Making Off Without Payment 	5 years	Refer to COP	No effect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going equipped to steal • Abstracting electricity • False Accounting 	2 Years	Refer to COP	No effect
ALL OTHER OFFENCES	Refer to COP	Refer to COP	Refer to Chief



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Notes

The above reflects the minimum time before which a person will be considered for the issuing of a licence. A licence may still be refused after this time, if the facts of the original offence warrants it.

Notes on Arrests

If the arrests relate to drunkenness, domestic abuse or breaches of the peace this could suggest an unsuitability to hold a firearm and should be investigated, notwithstanding the offence being listed as “No effect”

If a person is arrested for 3 matters listed as “No effect” over a period of 4 years the file should be referred to the Chief of Police.

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