

Memorandum for the Social and Community Development Committee

FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

Decision Sought

Committee is asked to consider and agree the attached Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2020 so that it can be forwarded to Executive Council for approval for it to be printed and published and tabled as Government business at a forthcoming formal meeting of the Legislative Council.

Background and Considerations

1. At the Social and Community Development Committee (SCDC) meeting held on the 13th May 2020, Members considered a decision paper relating to the firearms collection held at the Museum of Saint Helena (Museum). Members were asked to agree to an amendment being made to the Firearms Ordinance, 1997 to provide for the Museum to be issued with a Licence in order to exhibit its firearms collection and thus enabling those responsible for the management of the Museum to be exempt from the requirement to hold a Firearms Certificate. This recommendation had been proposed by the Director of Police, who is the Licensing Officer.

2. Members agreed that the Firearms Ordinance 1997 should be amended to include that provision, noting that provision existed for certain exemptions and that the inclusion of a Licence arrangement for the Museum would be similar to arrangements in place for Museums in the UK which exhibit firearms. The relevant documentation was thus submitted to the Attorney General's Chambers for action.

3. The attached Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2020 has thus been prepared by the Attorney General's Chambers and is submitted for Members' consideration.

Financial Implications

No financial implications associated with approval of this Bill.

Economic Implications

No economic implications envisaged with approval of this Bill.

Consistency with Investment Policy Principles

Not applicable.

Public/Social Impact

Unlikely to be any significant adverse public reaction.

Environmental Impact

None.

Previous Consultation/Committee Input

No previous consultation on the Bill.

Public Reaction

No adverse public reaction envisaged.

Publicity - None at this stage, as approval of Executive Council will be required before the Bill is printed and published.

Support to 10-Year Plan: Altogether Safer

Corporate Support

30 September 2020

DRAFT