



**St Helena
Government**

ST HELENA GOVERNMENT
A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE
FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020



ST HELENA

A BILL

FOR

AN ORDINANCE

to amend the Firearms Ordinance, 1997, to make provision with respect to firearms certificates granted to museums or other institutions that hold weapons and ammunition of historical interest for preservation or public display; to exclude certain historical articles from the application of the Ordinance; and for related and connected purposes.

Enacted by the Governor of St Helena with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of St Helena.

Short title

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Firearms (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

Amendment of section 3 – Application

2. Section 3 of the Firearms Ordinance, 1997, is amended—
 - (a) by renumbering the existing text as subsection (1); and
 - (b) by adding the following subsection:

“(2) This Ordinance does not apply to any muzzle loading cannon on St Helena which was manufactured before 1900.”.

Insertion of section 14A – Museum firearms and ammunition

3. The following section is inserted in the Firearms Ordinance, 1997, after section 14:

“Museum firearms and ammunition

14A. (1) This section applies to museums or other institutions that hold weapons or ammunition of historical interest for purposes of preservation or display to members of the public.

- (2) The Director of Police must not grant a firearms certificate to a

museum or institution referred to in subsection (1), unless the Director is satisfied that the arrangements for exhibiting and securing the safe custody of the firearms and ammunition in question are such as not to endanger the public safety or the peace.

(3) While a firearms certificate is in force in respect of a museum or institution referred to in subsection (1), the persons responsible for the management of the museum or institution and its employees—

- (a) may, without holding a firearm certificate or shot gun certificate, have in their possession, purchase or acquire, for the purposes of the museum or institution, firearms and ammunition of historical interest which are or will be normally exhibited or kept on the premises of the museum or institution, as specified in the certificate; and
- (b) if the certificate so provides, may, without the authority of the Director of Police, have in their possession, purchase or acquire, for those purposes, prohibited weapons and ammunition of historical interest which are or will be so normally exhibited or kept.

(4) In this section, “**persons responsible for the management**” with respect to a museum or institution, means the board of trustees, governing body or other person or persons (whether or not incorporated) exercising corresponding functions with respect to the museum or institution.”.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Ordinance)

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Firearms Ordinance, 1997, to make provision with respect to the granting of firearms certificates to museums or other institutions that preserve and exhibit firearms and ammunition of historical interest. Persons responsible for the management of the museum or institution and its employees may possess, purchase or acquire such firearms, ammunition or prohibited weapons for purposes of the museum or institution without being required to hold an individual firearms certificate. The Bill also excludes from the application of the Ordinance all muzzle loading cannons on St Helena which were manufactured before 1900.

