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Mr I M Arrow
HM Senior Coroner
1 Derriford Park
Derriford Business Park
Plymouth
PL6 5QZ

5th May 2023

Dear Coroner,

Please find below the response from Leicestershire Police in respect of your report to prevent future deaths made under Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigation) Regulations 2013.

Please accept my apologies for our slightly delayed response as a result of a prolonged local protest which has resulted in the abstraction of a number of my senior colleagues over the last 7 days.

I would like to reassure you that we have taken your concerns seriously and have put in place immediate steps to address these.

By way of context our force currently interacts with:

- 10,819 Shotgun certificate holders
- 2,407 Firearm Certificate holders
- 492 Coterminous certificate holders
- 40 Firearms dealers
- 15 Rifle and Pistol Clubs
- 164 Acquire and Keep Explosive Certificates
- 32 Acquire only explosive certificates
- 15 Explosive Store Licences

You will be only too aware that this is a significant administrative and risk management undertaking. All these certificate holders must be reviewed on renewal and suitability questioned on their mental health, criminal convictions and suspected behaviour based on police intelligence. These processes are well defined within the Statutory Guidance for Chief Officers of Police and Guide on Firearms Licensing law (November 2022) and Force Procedure.



Leicestershire Police provide this service through a centralised department which receive and process the applications, make enquiries, compile reports to the Firearms manager and in a majority of cases subsequently issue the appropriate licence(s). Current processes involve the completion of nationally approved forms which are submitted to the department with the appropriate fee and medical report. These are checked in all cases against various national and local intelligence data bases.

An entry is made against the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS), and, in most cases, a visit to the applicant to confirm various details, discuss medical history, and check the security arrangements for the weapons. Subsequently, subject to the various checks, enquiries, contact with a minimum of one reference of good character and other information reaching an acceptable threshold; a certificate is granted. This certificate in all cases is signed by the Firearms manager or the Firearms Supervisor both of whom have delegated authority of myself as the Chief Constable.

I can confirm that in response to the concerns you have raised, namely that I should consider reviewing all certificates seized, refused, revoked or surrendered and then subsequently approved over the past five years we have put in place the following action:

- We will be reviewing all such cases from 1st April 2018 for the past 5 years (1st April 2018) commencing with the most recent decisions first.
- The individual/s used to conduct this review will be independent from the original decision makers with experience in criminal investigations and suitably qualified to PIP2.
- Findings will be reported to the strategic lead for Firearms Licensing who is an Assistant Chief Constable.
- Priority will be given to those cases where firearms have been seized, surrendered to police pending a review of their suitability to possess a firearm or certificate and subsequently approved.
- We will aim to complete the review by 2nd October 2023.
- We will then review those cases where applications have been refused or licences revoked, but where subsequent applications or appeals by the same licence holder resulted in a grant. (If the return or grant has been ordered by the Crown Court the strategic lead will give direction which maybe consultation with the force solicitor. There are two such cases)
- Review all previous decision-making against the Home Office Statutory Guidance (Feb 23) from 1st April 2018 to provide a consistent approach across decision making
- To continue monthly governance meetings on future decisions with Chief Inspector (Firearms Licensing), the firearms manager and the new reviewing staff member to continue an effective and consistent approach moving forwards.

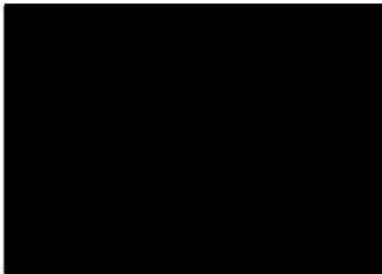


Leicestershire
Police
Protecting our communities

Police HQ, St. Johns,
Enderby,
LE19 2BX.

The proactive steps Leicestershire have taken indicate our support to manage risk as highlighted in the report. We are keen to ensure that we continually improve the management of the process and support lessons learnt for such tragic circumstances

Yours Sincerely



Chief Constable