





referee support of an application is still under consultation, we have devised our own document to implement this process in the meantime.

Moving forward our processes will include reviewing within one month all cases where firearms have been seized or surrendered to the police pending a review of suitability to have a licence, but subsequently returned. We will also review applications that have been refused or licences have been revoked, but where subsequent applications or appeals by the same licence holder have resulted in the granting of a licence. We will endeavour to ensure that this is completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023. All cases will be reviewed by the Firearms Licensing Manager and escalated to the Chief Superintendent and/or Assistant Chief Constable where appropriate.

In response to the request by the Home Secretary, my Firearms Licensing Manager in conjunction with the relevant Chief Superintendent reviewed 8 cases from 2021. During this period:

- 2 licenses were revoked and have not been subsequently reissued.
- 2 applications were refused, and the applicants have not reapplied.
- 4 cases - licence holders voluntarily surrendered their licence and weaponry. Of these:
  - 1 has had their licence cancelled.
  - 1 risk involved a family member who has since moved on negating that danger.
  - 2 have appropriate control measures which include regular monitoring and unannounced visits.

It would be remiss of me not to highlight the work undertaken by Merseyside Police Head of Crime [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] commissioned a report entitled '*The Threat, Harm and Risk*



*from the Lawful Ownership of Firearms and Shotguns across the North West Region and their Unlawful Displacement.'* This was researched and co-authored by [REDACTED] Guest (Regional Firearms Analyst, NWROCU) and [REDACTED] (Intelligence Analyst, NABIS). This report identified a series of recommendations and preventative measures in relation to lawfully held firearms. A number of the recommendations identified within the report have not only been adopted by Merseyside, but across all of the six North West forces. The study has also been shared with law enforcement and partners nationally.

I hope this letter reassures you that Merseyside Police take this area of business extremely seriously and will continue to ensure all decision and reviews will complement current Home Office Statutory Guidance as of February 2023.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]