Firearms reform

# Arms Bill

# Explanation of proposals

Contents

# Glossary of terms

*This section contains explanations of a number of terms used throughout this document.*

**Arms item** – this is a blanket term used to describe a range of firearms, firearm parts and restricted weapons.

**Blank firing gun** – A blank firing gun is a replica or modified firearm designed to discharge blank cartridges. These cartridges produce a loud noise, muzzle flash, and recoil to simulate a live gunshot, but do not expel a projectile.

**Diversion** – Diversion refers to legally purchased firearms being unlawfully redirected into illegal markets. This can occur, for example, when a firearms licence holder acquires firearms with the intent to sell them to individuals who do not hold a firearms licence, often for criminal purposes.

**Endorsement** – Possessing certain types of arms item (such as pistols and restricted weapons) requires an endorsement on your firearms licence. This enables you to legally possess that type of arms item. For example, to possess pistols you require a firearms licence with a pistol endorsement.

**Endorsed item** – Any arms item that requires an endorsement on a firearms licence to possess.

**Infringement offence** – An infringement offence is a type of minor offence, typically involving low-level or non-serious conduct, that does not result in a criminal conviction.

**Permit to possess** – A firearms licence holder with the appropriate endorsement can apply for a permit to possess for a specific item such as a pistol or a restricted weapon. The permit allows the licence holder to legally possess that item. Note that endorsements apply to the type of arms item while permits to possess apply to the specific item itself.

**Vital Parts** – These are key components of a firearm, that when removed render the firearm inoperable.

**Restricted firearm** – This is what was previously known as a ‘prohibited firearm’. There are no changes to the legal status of these firearms.

## Table 1: Public safety

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Section 1A(2)(b) states that persons authorised to import, manufacture, supply, sell, possess, or use arms have a responsibility to act in the interests of personal and public safety. | **Purpose of the legislation expanded to include all actors in the system.** | *Any person or organisation* operating under the firearms regulatory regime to act in the interests of personal, community, and public safety. | This change reflects that multiple people within the system share responsibility for safety. | |
| Gang affiliations are considered when the regulator assesses whether a firearms licence applicant is a fit and proper person. However, gang members can still technically be granted a firearms licence under current settings. | **Gang membership disqualifies firearm licence eligibility.** | Individuals identified as gang members (e.g. those on the National Gang List) will be automatically disqualified from holding a firearms licence. This will prevent known gang members from gaining legal access to firearms. | Although gang members represent less than 1% of New Zealand's adult population, they are linked to 23% of all firearms offences. This change will enhance public protection and reduce the diversion of firearms to gangs. | If someone applying for a firearms licence is listed on the National Gang List, their application will be automatically declined. If a current licence holder is added to the National Gang List, their licence will be revoked. |
| The Arms Act 1983 provides limited options to address low-level instances of non-compliance. | **Infringement powers and temporary suspensions introduced for low-level non-compliance.** | Infringement offences can be specified in regulations, and firearms licences may be suspended for up to 90 days in cases of ongoing low-level non-compliance. | Existing compliance tools are designed for serious offences and are too narrow and prescriptive. These changes provide a more proportionate and flexible response to minor breaches. | Examples of non-compliance that could result in an infringement notice include administrative errors, such as failing to notify the regulator of a change of address. |
| The Arms Act 1983 limits all licence suspensions to three months, at which point the suspension must end or the person's firearms licence must be revoked. Once a person's firearms licence is revoked, they cannot apply for a new licence for 10 years. | **Health-related licence suspensions extended to 12 months.** | The regulator may suspend a firearms licence for up to 12 months due to concerns about the licence holder's health. | Three months is often insufficient to obtain medical reports or implement mitigations. Extending the suspension period provides flexibility and ensures licence holders have time to seek medical advice and address concerns without compromising public safety. | If a person's firearms licence is suspended due to health concerns, they have up to one year to address those concerns before the licence is at risk of being revoked. |
| Currently, the only control on blank-firing guns is an import permit to confirm they are not classified as firearms. As a result, anyone (including criminals) can legally purchase them. | **Blank-firing guns regulated** | A firearms licence will be required to purchase or import blank-firing guns that can be converted into functioning firearms. Individuals who already own such guns without a firearms licence may retain them, but can only sell or transfer them to someone who holds a valid firearms licence. | Many blank-firing guns have the potential to be converted into functional firearms. This change reduces access for criminals while avoiding unnecessary regulation for individuals who already lawfully possess them. | |
| A pistol endorsement is not currently needed to possess high-capacity pistol magazines. | **High-capacity pistol magazines restricted to endorsed licence holders.** | A pistol endorsement will now be required to obtain and possess pistol magazines with a capacity of more than 10 rounds. | There is no legitimate reason for non-endorsed licence holders to possess high-capacity pistol magazines. This change ensures only appropriately endorsed individuals can access these items. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dealer licence holders are able to accept surrendered arms items. They are only required to notify Police and provide items for inspection if the surrendered item requires an endorsement to possess. | **Business licence holders are required to notify Police of all surrendered arms items.**<br><br>(Note that dealer licences are being renamed "business licences" – see Table 3 below) | Business licence holders must notify Police of all surrendered arms items and provide them for inspection upon request. | There is always a chance that surrendered items could have been involved in criminal activity. Extending the notification requirement to all surrendered items ensures they are checked for criminal involvement and can be returned to lawful owners. This enhances public safety and operational efficiency. | |
| Pathways to lawful ownership are limited. | **Eligible firearms can be permanently altered or deactivated to make sure they are legally owned or possessed** | Individuals may lawfully retain firearms by either permanently deactivating them or, in the case of prohibited firearms, modifying them into non-prohibited forms. The ability to convert prohibited firearms is limited to people affected by the 2019-2020 law changes. | People may find themselves in unlawful possession for benign reasons, but pathways to lawful ownership are limited. Permanent deactivation ensures the item is no longer functional and poses no public safety risk. Conversion of prohibited firearms reduces risk and allows lawful retention, particularly for those impacted by previous legislative changes. | A firearms user is unlawfully in possession of a firearm that became prohibited under the 2019-2020 changes to the Arms Act 1983. Under the new rules, the user can now legally take the firearm to a gunsmith to have it permanently deactivated or converted into a non-prohibited firearm. |
| There are a number of harmful behaviours which are not currently covered by existing offences in the Arms Act 1983. | **New Offences** | New offences have been introduced to future proof the system in response to new trends in criminal behaviour and emerging technology (such as 3D printing), including:<br>• failing to notify the regulator of a lost or stolen licence<br>• unsafe storage of firearms<br>• possession of firearms without serial numbers<br>• possession of files or blueprints with the intent to unlawfully manufacture arms items<br>• intentional diversion of firearms | To close gaps in the current offences and penalties regime and support public safety by addressing harmful behaviours. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Many penalties have remained unchanged since 1983. | **Updated penalties** | Penalties have been increased to reflect the seriousness of firearm offending, including by raising penalties for individuals who do not hold a firearms licence. This marks a shift from the current law, where licensed firearms owners can sometimes face higher penalties than unlicensed individuals | To ensure penalties act as effective deterrents against unlawful behaviour. | |

## Table 2: Supporting responsible firearms users

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disputed firearms licence decisions go through an internal review by the FSA, followed by an appeal to the District Court if unresolved.<br><br>Internal reviews are limited to decisions to refuse a licence application or revoke a licence. | **Firearms Licensing Review Committee created** | Internal review process replaced by an independent Firearms Licensing Review Committee.<br><br>The Firearms Licensing Review Committee will be able to review both conditions imposed on licences and decisions to refuse or revoke them. | To improve trust in the system and reduce the number of appeals reaching the courts. To reduce the significant costs to individuals associated with appealing decisions through the courts. | An individual has had their application for a firearms licence refused on the basis that previous driving offences mean that they are not 'fit and proper'.<br><br>The individual may choose to appeal to the Firearms Licensing Review Committee for an independent review of the regulator's decision, on the basis that the driving offences are historic and no longer relevant to their current status. |
| A firearms licence can remain valid after its expiry if the holder applies for a new licence before the expiry date and the licence expires before the regulator processes the application. However, the regulator cannot issue a new firearms licence card with an updated expiry date until the application is approved. | **Licence extensions** | The regulator can issue firearms licence extensions for up to three years. | High demand for licensing services can affect the regulator's ability to deliver timely decisions. Allowing licence extensions for low-risk individuals helps manage demand and improves processing times. | Rather than fully processing a new firearms licence application, the regulator may choose to extend the holder's existing licence for up to three years.<br><br>In these cases, the regulator will notify the licence holder of the extension and issue a new licence card with an updated expiry date.<br><br>This means the licence holder can delay the full reapplication process (including referee checks etc) until the new expiry date. |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| International travel with firearms requires a valid firearms licence. | **Urgent renewals for international travel** | Licence holders who need to renew their licences quickly for international travel can apply for an urgent renewal process, like the expedited process for passports. | There are high wait times for licence renewals during peak periods. This change enables fast decisions for individuals with a legitimate reason to travel internationally with a firearm (for example, for hunting or shooting competitions) but may not have had a licence extension issued previously by the regulator | A firearms licence holder intends to travel to Australia to participate in a shooting competition. However, their New Zealand firearms licence is due to expire before their departure, and due to extended processing times for renewal applications, it is unlikely to be renewed in time. As the individual plans to travel with a firearm, this presents a compliance issue.<br><br>To mitigate the delay, the licence holder has the option to pay a higher fee to have their renewal application prioritised. |
| Foreign visitors must apply for and be granted a visitor's licence every time they enter New Zealand. | **Multi-entry visitor licences for overseas shooters.** | Visitor licences will allow international travelers to enter and leave New Zealand multiple times within a 12-month period without reapplying for a licence each time. The regulator will retain the ability to run checks to confirm a visitor's fit and proper status remains unchanged. | Some visitors travel to and from New Zealand multiple times in a short period (for example, to attend shooting competitions or hunt during different seasons). A visitor's fit and proper status is unlikely to change within a few months of their initial application, so requiring a full reapplication offers little public safety benefit.<br><br>This approach enables the regulator to allocate resources more effectively, reduces unnecessary application processes, and supports increased visitors to New Zealand. Visiting shooters also make a valuable economic contribution by spending significant amounts during their stay in New Zealand. | An overseas shooter planning to visit New Zealand for two separate competitions within a 12-month period can apply for a single visitor firearms licence that covers both trips, rather than submitting separate applications for each. |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| Licence holders must have secure storage facilities at their primary place of residence. | **Clarified definition of "premises" for secure storage requirements.** | Licence holders can have the secure storage facilities required for a firearms licence at any location approved by the regulator, not just their primary residence. | Currently, the regulator interprets "premises" as the applicant's primary residence, which has led to some applicants being declined a licence if they store firearms elsewhere. However, a person's primary residence is not always the safest or most secure location. This change ensures firearms can be stored in the most appropriate location to prevent theft and unlawful access | A university student who owns a firearm for hunting can store their firearm in their licensed parent's secure locker rather than installing one in their student flat. |
| Some product definitions in the Arms Act 1983 are ill-defined or emotive. | **Clarified product definitions and exempted low-risk items** | Some product definitions will be clarified in the new legislation. This includes:<br>- renaming "prohibited firearms" as "restricted firearms" to better reflect their legislative status<br>- replacing the term "specially dangerous air gun" with the more neutral "high energy air gun,"<br>- defining ammunition as requiring all components (bullet, cartridge case, primer or cap, and propellant) to be present<br>- biopsy guns will be exempt from firearms licensing requirements (note that 'exempt' firearms will be set out in regulations).<br>- a new empowering provision will allow certain low energy air guns (such as fishing bait cannons), to be exempted from dealer record requirements through regulations. | To improve legal clarity and reduce unnecessary regulation by making it easier to understand when requirements apply. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| Permits to possess are required to be obtained before manufacture is complete. | **Require permits to possess to be obtained before starting to manufacture endorsed arms items.** | Where a licensed firearms owner intends to manufacture a firearm that requires a permit to possess, they must obtain that permit before beginning the manufacturing process | Personal manufacture of some endorsed items (e.g. pistols) is allowed under a firearms licence. In practice, many licence holders acquire parts and begin manufacturing before applying for a permit to possess when the job is near completion. This limits the Regulator's visibility of endorsed items being manufactured and risks owners investing time and resources into items they may not be permitted to possess. Requiring the permit upfront improves oversight and gives licence holders greater certainty before starting manufacture. | |
| There are no controls of on-selling of arms items originally manufactured for the licence holder's personal use. | **Require firearms or parts made for personal use to be sold only through licensed businesses** | If a licensed firearms owner manufactures an arms item for personal use, it can only be sold through a business licence holder. | The manufacture of arms items for personal use only is allowed under a firearms licence, while a business licence is required to manufacture for supply. This change helps prevent circulation of unsafe items by closing a loophole where an item originally manufactured for personal use can be later sold without regulatory oversight or quality assurance. | A licensed firearms owner manufactures an arms item for personal use. Later, they decide to sell it and take the item to a business licence holder, who facilitates the sale. |
| The Arms Act 1983 specifies which topics guidance can be issued for. While the Minister's Arms Advisory Group must be consulted, there is no requirement to consult with the wider firearms community when developing guidance. Guidance must be published in the New Zealand Gazette. | **Regulator must consult directly with firearms community and can publish guidance on their website.** | The regulator can issue guidance on a broader range of topics. The Minister's Arms Advisory Group and the wider firearms community must both be consulted before guidance is issued. The regulator may publish guidance on its website instead of the *New Zealand Gazette*.<br><br>These requirements will be set out in regulations rather than the primary legislation. | Current policy limits the regulator's ability to respond quickly to new issues raised by the firearms community and the Police. These amendments enable the regulator to develop and share guidance proactively, improving public safety and education. Publishing on the regulator's website also saves costs and ensures the community stays up to date with compliance requirements and knowledge gaps are addressed promptly. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| The Arms Act 1983 enables the regulator to recover its costs in respect of certain activities under the Act relating to an individual licence holder, shooting club, or shooting range. | **Fee reviews every five years and tiered fee structure** | The legislation will require a review of fees every five years to ensure they remain reasonable. It will also allow for a tiered fee structure, aiming to reduce fees where appropriate. | Regular reviews will help ensure fees accurately reflect the regulator's activities while maintaining affordability for diverse firearms users. A tiered structure promotes equity by allowing services that provide greater public benefit to recover a smaller portion of costs.<br><br>The new tiered fees framework will be developed and consulted on after the Bill has been enacted. | |
| Section 94(2)(b) gives Police wide discretion to include additional Police-held information in the Registry. | **Registry transparency improved by repealing section 94(2)(b).** | The regulator will no longer have the option to be able to include information in the Registry beyond what is explicitly required by the regulations. | Repealing this provision establishes a clear and transparent process for including additional Police-held information in the Registry. This change responds to concerns raised by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner about the inclusion of unspecified data. A more transparent approach will help rebuild public trust and confidence in the regulator. | |

## Table 3: Supporting specialist users and activities

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| Endorsements issued for pest control/biosecurity purposes are issued for 2.5 years. | **Extension of pest control endorsements to five years with mid-term check-Ins.** | The duration of prohibited firearms endorsements issued for pest control purposes will be extended to five years. Endorsement holders must check in with the regulator at the 2.5-year mark to confirm that their circumstances remain unchanged. | Requiring a full endorsement application every 2.5 years places an unnecessary burden on both the regulator and endorsement holders. Extending the endorsement period reduces this regulatory load while maintaining oversight through mid-term check-ins. This approach streamlines the process without compromising public safety or regulatory assurance. | |
| Need permit to possess and update registry every time firearms change hands. | **Multi-User Agreements to streamline short-term firearm transfers for pest control** | The regulator will introduce multi-user agreements that allow specified employees of biosecurity and pest control organisations to share prohibited firearms without triggering permit-to-possess or registry updates for each short-term transfer. These agreements apply to transfers of less than seven days. Organisations must maintain internal records of all firearm transfers and provide them to the regulator upon request. | The current requirement to update the Registry and obtain a permit for each short-term transfer is overly burdensome, particularly when firearms are routinely shared among the same users . Multi-user agreements will reduce this regulatory load while maintaining oversight and public safety. | Examples of organisations eligible for multi-user agreements include government departments responsible for managing pest control and biosecurity threats in New Zealand. |
| Collectors must store vital parts at a separate address belonging to another licence holder who is endorsed to possess prohibited firearms. | **Greater flexibility for collectors' storage of vital parts for prohibited firearms.** | Collectors who own prohibited firearms will be allowed to store vital parts at the address of any licensed firearm owner (not just someone with the same endorsement), subject to regulator approval. | Current requirement is unnecessarily restrictive and does not enhance public safety, particularly when the parts are stored with another licence holder who owns the same type of firearm (effectively allowing like-for-like vital parts to be "swapped"). The change reduces regulatory burden by giving collectors greater flexibility, while maintaining public safety through the continued requirement to store vital parts at a separate, regulator-approved address. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Licence class is known as dealer's licence. | **Rename the 'dealer's licence' to 'business licence'** | Dealers' licences will be renamed "business licence". Business licences will still be issued to an individual (not an organisation). | Previous reforms expanded the scope of the dealer's licence to include a range of activities that are not accurately described as "dealing" - such as gunsmiths who only repair firearms, not sell them. This has led to confusion within the firearms community.<br><br>Renaming the licence provides greater clarity for individuals carrying out regulated activities under this licence class and better reflects its broader purpose. | |
| The Arms Act 1983 allows firearms licence holders to carry out certain activities (such as selling firearms) but requires a dealer's licence if the person is *'in the business*' of doing that activity. However, the Act does not define 'in business,' leaving the term open to interpretation. | **Clarifying when a person is 'in business'** | The legislation will provide greater clarity around what it means to be "in business". | There is currently a lack of clarity around when certain activities trigger the requirement for a business licence. Including a list of considerations in legislation will improve transparency, support compliance, and reduce unnecessary licence applications by providing clearer guidance to individuals and organisations. | |
| Dealer licence holders must obtain a permit to possess for any endorsed item they receive to work on, regardless of the job's scope or duration. | **Permit to possess not required for certain short-term activities by business license holders.** | Business licence holders who repair or modify firearms (e.g. gunsmiths) will no longer be required to obtain a permit to possess for the following activities:<br>- Repairs completed within seven days<br>- Permanent deactivation of a firearm<br>- Conversion of prohibited firearms to non-prohibited firearms (as provided for in legislation).<br>They will still be required to keep records of these jobs and make them available to the regulator on request. | Existing requirement is unnecessarily burdensome. Removing it for short-term activities that contribute to public safety will reduce paperwork and streamline operations, making it easier to repair, deactivate, or convert firearms into less dangerous forms. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| Import permits are valid for 30 days. | **Extension of import permit duration for business licence holders.** | Import permits issued to business licence holders will be valid for 12 months. | The 30-day validity period is often too short for importers receiving items in multiple consignments. Delays in delivery can cause permits to expire before all items arrive, requiring importers to apply for new permits. This process is administratively burdensome. Extending the permit duration to 12 months reduces regulatory pressure on importers, particularly those facing supply chain disruptions, and decreases the number of permits that need to be submitted and processed. | |
| Dealer licences are valid for one year. They must be renewed annually, essentially following the same process as for a new licence application. | **Extend business licence duration to five years for compliant holders.** | If a business licence has been held for two years without any compliance issues, its duration will be extended to five years.<br><br>Time spent holding a dealer licence under the Arms Act 1983 will count toward meeting this two-year threshold. | Requiring annual renewals places significant administrative, time, and financial burdens on both business licence holders and the regulator, with limited public safety benefits. Extending the licence duration for compliant holders reduces this burden while maintaining oversight and safety protections. This change will significantly ease the administrative load for established businesses, which will only need to renew their licence every five years. As most dealer licence applications currently processed are renewals, this proposal will substantially reduce the number of applications the regulator must handle each year. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| Employees of dealers who work with endorsed items must obtain endorsements on their personal firearms licences. | **Remove requirement for employee endorsements** | Employees of endorsed business licence holders will no longer need to obtain individual endorsements on their personal firearms licences.<br><br>Employers will be required to notify the regulator of any changes to staffing. The regulator will be able to raise concerns with the employer if necessary. | Requiring both business licence holders and their employees to hold endorsements for the same activities is duplicative and unnecessarily complex, with limited public safety benefit. Removing this requirement streamlines the process, reduces costs, and eases the administrative burden for businesses and the regulator. Public safety will continue to be supported through other safeguards, including employer responsibility for staff conduct and mandatory training requirements. | |
| Museums that display arms items are included within the dealer licence regime. | **Museum-specific "curator licences"** | Curators and directors of bona fide museums will be able to apply for a dedicated "curator licence," allowing for the public display of arms items. Licence conditions will be tailored to reflect the specific risks associated with public display. | Currently, museums must hold a dealer's licence to display arms items, despite museum activities being fundamentally different from commercial dealer activities. Museums typically do not engage in frequent transfers of arms items and often operate on a not-for-profit basis. As a result, many dealer licence requirements are difficult for museums to meet and disproportionate to their risk profile. Introducing a curator licence will reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and ensure museums are regulated in a way that reflects their unique operating environment. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| Museum employees who handle arms items in their work duties must have a firearms licence. | **Museum worker licences for employees who do not wish to own firearms** | Museum employees who handle arms items as part of their job will be able to apply for a "museum worker licence" as an alternative to a standard firearms licence. Applicants must still pass the "fit and proper person" test but will not be required to have secure storage facilities at home. The licence allows them to handle arms items at their place of employment but does not permit personal ownership or possession.<br><br>If the employee already holds a firearms licence they will not be required to also obtain a museum worker licence. | Many museum employees do not own or use firearms personally and find it difficult to meet the storage requirements of a standard firearms licence. This change provides a practical alternative for employees who need to handle arms items professionally but have no intention of owning them. It supports museum operations while maintaining appropriate safety and vetting standards. Museum employees who do wish to own firearms in a private capacity are able to obtain standard firearms licences. | |
| The Arms Act 1983 does not provide much clarity on what is and isn't considered "manufacture". | **Manufacturing definitions clarified.** | The legislation will clarify that "manufacture" includes any activity that modifies, converts, or otherwise alters the function of a firearm.<br><br>It will also specify that the following activities are not considered manufacturing:<br>- Replacing a part with a like-for-like part that has already been legally manufactured<br>- Disassembling or reassembling a firearm for cleaning or maintenance | Feedback from the firearms community and the regulator has highlighted that current definitions of manufacturing are unclear and no longer fit for purpose. The updated definition will provide clearer guidance on how manufacturing relates to activities such as modification, conversion, and part replacement. This clarity will help licence holders understand when manufacturing rules apply, improving compliance and reducing confusion. | |
| Commercial ammunition sellers are only required to notify the regulator of their intent to sell commercially, with no mechanism for the regulator to assess or refuse applications. | **Regulator approval required for commercial ammunition sellers** | Individuals or businesses seeking to sell or supply ammunition must obtain approval from the regulator. | This change strengthens public safety by allowing the regulator to vet applicants and decline approval where there are safety concerns. | |

## Table 4: Changes for the regulator

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| The Firearms Safety Authority is currently a business unit within Police.<br><br>The head of the FSA and its staff ultimately report to the Police Commissioner, who is accountable for regulatory activities.<br><br>There are commissioned and sworn officers in senior roles within the FSA. | **New firearm regulatory agency led by an independent Chief Executive established** | A specialist firearms regulatory agency will be established to oversee all aspects of regulation, including licensing firearms users and registering firearms. Police will no longer perform these functions.<br><br>The agency will report independently to the Minister responsible for Firearms and will operate as an independent statutory body, led by a Chief Executive with authority to regulate the sector. Agency staff will report to the Chief Executive, not the Police Commissioner. The agency will be hosted by Police and purchase corporate services from them.<br><br>The Police Commissioner and police staff will not be involved in regulatory decisions.<br><br>The agency and Police can exchange information necessary to carry out their respective functions. | The new regulatory agency will focus on helping users meet their obligations through education and efficient licensing and registration processes.<br><br>Separating responsive regulatory functions from criminal law enforcement is essential to rebuilding trust between legitimate firearms owners, businesses, and the government.<br><br>Re-establishing this relationship is also key to improving compliance and enhancing public safety. | |
| No formal legislative mechanism for agencies to alert the regulator to relevant information that may affect a firearms licence holder's fit and proper status. | **Formalised red flag system** | Agencies such as Security Intelligence Service and Police will be formally empowered to alert the regulator when they hold information that raises concerns about a licence holder's "fit and proper" status. | There is no formal legislative mechanism for agencies to share relevant information with the regulator that may affect a licence holder's fit and proper status (although this does occur operationally). This change codifies this practice by establishing a statutory power for agencies to flag their concerns. | |

| Status quo | Change | Effect of change | Rationale | Example/case study |
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| As FSA are part of Police, there is no need for a formal information sharing arrangement | **Clarified information sharing powers between Police and regulator** | Two-way sharing of relevant information is allowed between Police and the regulator. Both parties can exchange data needed to carry out functions such as licence processing, monitoring, and law enforcement. | This change futureproofs the firearms system by improving operational efficiency. It ensures the regulator retains access to relevant information about licence holders and gives Police real-time access to data that supports criminal investigations, law enforcement activity, and frontline officer safety. | |