

# Clubs and Range Seminar 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Overview from the Firearms  
Policy  
Unit Garda H.Q.

Presented By

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&  
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# The Firearms Policy Unit

- Who are we and what do we do?
- Established by the Commissioner in 2008.
- To ensure Commissioner's Policies on Firearms Licensing are clearly understood & Standardised throughout the Force.
- To act as central reference point for

- To Establish & maintain the Registers for Rifle/Pistol clubs and Shooting Ranges.
- To liaise with the Firearms Range Inspector Dept. JELR re Shooting Ranges.
- Monitor Judicial Reviews and District Court Appeals in relation to Firearms Licensing.
- To liaise with Dept. JELR re Registered Firearms Dealers.
- To monitor and review the implementation process for Firearms Licensing.

# Current legislation re Clubs and Ranges -

- Authorised by local Superintendent under S.2.4(d) of Firearms Act 1925 - in force for 1 year.
- Club guns - Listed on Authorisations. Conditions included
  - re storage of firearms, and public safety requirements.
- Granted to Officer of Club or Operator/Person in charge of Range - Revoked by Superintendent if not satisfied Club or Range is being responsibly managed - Perceived lack of consistency from District to District.
- Ballistics section Garda H O liaise with local Supt

## Authorisation of Rifle or Pistol Clubs and Shooting Ranges.

- A Rifle or Pistol club or Owner or Operator of shooting range used for Target Practice - shall not allow firearms or ammunition be stored without an Authorisation in force.
- Application to Commissioner (Local Supt.) – On new application form acc. by fee. – Register maintained by Garda Commissioner.
- If application for a shooting range – Firearms range certificate issued by Firearms range Inspector from Dept. JELR – must be in force prior to applying for Authorisation to Gardai.
- Authorisation for Rifle or Pistol club or Range only granted when issuing officer satisfied: – no danger to public safety and club or range is responsibly managed.

- Authorisation in force for 5 years unless revoked.
- Decision given within 3 months of completed application – apply for renewal 3 months prior to expiry of Authorisation.
- If Revoked – notice given in writing to applicant or person responsible for management of club or range – surrender rifles/pistols to local Supt.
- Minimum standards must be complied with  
FOR CLUBS: - security, membership and management and RANGES: - security, membership, management, design, types of firearms and competency of persons using

# Minimum standards of Civilian Rifle and Pistol Clubs

## Membership:

- Members conduct: – not contrary to club rules – Annual membership fee – No 1 day or temporary membership.
- Club has minimum of 10 members - Written constitution – First time Applicant is proposed by 2 members.
- Up to date register of all members maintained – Record kept of members shooting records – Local Supt. informed if member has not attended club in previous 6 months.
- No person shall be a member of a Club if disentitled to hold a Firearms Cert. note. Except <sup>7</sup>

## Security of Premises:

- Authorised Officer of club shall ensure: – satisfactory security re storage arrangements for Firearms and ammunition in acc. with standards in S.I.

## Management of Club:

- Club only used for Target Practice - Appropriate safety rules in place – Club members observe rules of ranges.
- Authorised Officer to Liaise with local Supt. 2 times per year – He informs Gardai immediately if holder of Firearms Cert. ceases membership – If member has Firearms Cert revoked – He/She informs Club Secretary.

# Conclusion

- Authorisations of Rifle and Pistol Clubs and Shooting Ranges - Mutually Beneficial to Target Shooters and Garda Síochána alike.
- Legislation will assist in bringing Consistent approach to the Authorisation of Rifle and Pistol Clubs and Ranges throughout the Country.

THE END