News story: Home Office set to introduce fees for Section 5 firearms licences

Fees will be introduced on specialist firearms licences for the first time to reduce costs for UK taxpayers.

The new fees will apply to Section 5 firearms, a category which includes the most dangerous types of guns, such a military grade weapons, in England, Wales and Scotland and are being introduced following a Home Office consultation.

Current licence holders include organisations such as manufacturers or dealers supplying the police or the army, and individuals such as gunsmiths carrying out the deactivation of prohibited weapons.

As part of the consultation, the Home Office also reviewed licences for shooting clubs and museums to possess firearms. As a result, fees for museums will be frozen because of the benefit that they provide to the public, while fees for shooting clubs will increase.

Fees are already payable for certificates to possess civilian firearms, such as rifles for target shooting or shotguns, commonly used for pest control.

Nearly 5,000 people responded to the consultation, which ran from January to March 2017. Full summary of responses.

The fees being introduced will be significantly lower than those proposed in the consultation document. However, they will still allow the Home Office and the devolved administration in Scotland to recover the direct cost of administering licence applications, removing the burden from taxpayers and placing it on those benefitting from firearms licences.

Licence type	Fee
Museum first time	£200
Museum renewal	£200
Museum variation A	£110
Museum variation C	£36
Club first time	£444
Club renewal	£372
Club variation A	£300
Club variation B	£206
Club variation C	£36
Dealer first time	£796*
Dealer renewal	£747*
Dealer variation A	£425

Licence type	Fee
Dealer variation B	£206
Dealer variation C	£36
Carrier first time	£569
Carrier renewal	£540
Carrier variation A	£361
Carrier variation B	£206
Carrier variation C	£36
PMSC first time	£616
PMSC renewal	£565
PMSC variation A	£361
PMSC variation B	£206
PMSC variation C	£49
PMSC variation D	£316
Additional Guard	£48
DSEI	£389
Olympic shooter	£206
Trophy of War	£206

^{**}See paragraph 20 in the <u>full consultation response</u>.