| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0267  Responded to: 23 January 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I refer to the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015. 1.  I would be grateful if you could let me know if the renewal of a certificate is dependent upon whether the applicant possesses an air weapon or not at the time of the application.

In addition to the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015, please also refer to the [Air weapon licensing in Scotland: guide - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/guide-air-weapon-licensing-scotland/) which is used to base decisions in respect of air weapon certification.

Part of the assessment to grant or renew certificates relates to having “good reason” to use, possess, purchase or acquire an air weapon.  The guide gives examples of what may constitute “good reason”.  Whilst the guide does not explicitly state that an individual must have an air weapon in their possession at the point of renewal, in those circumstances additional evidence/information would be required to demonstrate their continued ‘good reason’ for certification.  Section 5 and Appendix 4 of the guide sets out how to determine “good reason”.

**2.  Is there a statutary requirement for the applicant to declare how many air weapons, if any, he possesses at the time of the application?**

No, there is no statutory requirement to declare how many air weapons are owned at the time of application.

**3.  If all other criteria are satisfied, will the applicants, refusal to declare whether he owns an air weapon or not at the time of the application lead to the revocation of the certificate?**Whilst there is a legal framework air weapon licensing, the guide clearly states that the first test to be applied is an assessment of whether a person is “fit to be entrusted with an air weapon”.  The police, as the licensing authority, must have trust in the individual applying for certification and any refusal to declare what weapons they have, how they are secured or what they will be used for, etc. will impact the assessment as to the individual’s suitability.

**4.  Does the possession of an air weapon demonstrate, in any way, that the applicant has good reason for applying for the renewal of his certificate?**As per Section 5 and Appendix 4 of the guide, which sets out how to determine “good reason”, mere possession of an air rifle at the time of renewal would not sufficiently demonstrate “good reason”.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.