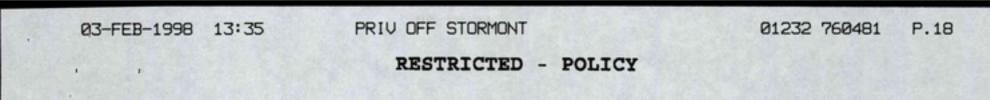
The National Archives reference PREM 49/406



ANNEX

## **REVIEW OF FIREARMS LEGISLATION: PRINCIPLE REFORM PROPOSALS**

- A tightening-up of <u>the legal definition of "firearm</u>" and the permitting of deactivated firearms, subject to specified controls;
- Removing the grant of full firearms certificates (FAC) from non-UK residents, and replacing these with <u>a system of Visitors' certificates</u> renewable annually;
- Rescheduling the legal criteria for the grant of a firearms certificate, to give primacy to public safety considerations;
- Extending the grounds of "intemperate habits" for refusing a certificate, to include drugs and solvent abuse;
- 5. Extending the life of firearms certificates from 3 to 5 years;
- Replacing the current system of certificate <u>renewals</u>, with <u>the more rigorous re-grant</u> system;
- 7. Permitting the legal borrowing of shotguns and airguns in specified circumstances;
- 8. Expressly empowering the Chief Constable to take account of <u>criminal convictions</u> overseas;



9. Introducing minimum standards of competency in firearms handling, validated by

test, as a condition for the grant of firearms certificates;

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- 10. Permitting persons aged between 14 and 18 years to use a shotgun or air gun with ammunition for sporting purposes and vermin control albeit on specified lands and subject to adult supervision;
- 11. Introducing <u>minimum statutory conditions for firearms clubs</u> and extending their period of authorisation from 3 to 6 years;
- 12. Extending the grounds on which <u>firearms dealers' authorisation</u> can be refused by the Secretary of State;
- Extending the RUC's powers of search with warrant, to include public safety ground;
- Extending the RUC's power to <u>ballastically test firearms</u>, to include all categories of guns;
- 15. Extending the <u>Chief Constable's powers of delegation</u> under the legislation, to include civilians specialising in firearms matters;
- 16. Redefining the legal criteria for "antique" firearms;
- 17. In Firearms appeals to the Secretary of State, making such decisions binding on the Chief Constable;
- 18. Requiring persons legally prohibited from possessing a firearm, to serve a minimum

# period before seeking removal of their prohibition;

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19.	The Northern Ireland Office to issue and publish a <u>Memorandum on Firearms Law</u> and Policy for the guidance of the Chief Constable; and
20.	The Secretary of State to establish a non-statutory Firearms Consultative Forum.
Pol	ice Division
	January 1998

### RESTRICTED - POLICY

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