

Selling / buying air weapons

- Anyone selling air weapons as part of their business must be registered and approved by the police as a Registered Firearms Dealer (RFD).
- All RFD's must keep a record of all purchases, this includes the names and addresses of those who have bought air weapons from their shop.
- Police can withdraw RFD registration if they believe they are a danger to public safety e.g. they have sold an air weapon to an underage person.
- All weapons sold by a RFD must be handed over in person, this prevents internet or mail order sales/purchases.
- It is an offence to sell or gift an air weapon (or ammunition including pellets, darts etc.) to a person under 18 years of age.
- It is an offence for a person under the age of 18 to purchase/hire an air weapon or ammunition for an air weapon.

If you are an air weapon owner or thinking about acquiring one ask yourself these questions:

- Do I use my air weapon for recreational shooting or my job?
- Do I know the law well enough to shoot an air weapon legally?
- Can I be sure it will be used safely and never get into the wrong hands?

If you answer **NO** to any of these questions maybe it's time to get rid of your firearm.

You can dispose of your air weapon safely and legally by handing it into your local police station.

Reporting incidents

Whilst many people are keen and responsible air weapon keepers a minority abuse them. If you see anyone using an air weapon illegally please contact the police immediately.

In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the relevant emergency service.

An emergency situation involving air weapons can include:

- Violence or threatening behaviour
- Danger to life
- Robbery

For all non-emergencies please call Grampian Police

on **0845 600 5700**

Text

You can also report an incident via text on **07739 93 4444**

Crimestoppers

If you wish to provide information about an incident but wish to do so anonymously you can call Crimestoppers, which is a UK independent charity on **0800 555 111**

PLEASE NOTE This leaflet is intended for information only and should not be considered as a definitive interpretation of the law.



www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Know the facts about air weapons in Aberdeen.





Don't fall foul of the law. Know the rules and don't break them.

Any air weapon can be dangerous in the wrong hands. They have the potential to damage property, frighten, injure or kill people.

Aberdeen City Council does not tolerate the illegal use of air weapons.

For this reason this information leaflet has been created to help you understand the law and your rights with regards to selling/buying and using air weapons.

Air weapon owners

If you are an air weapon owner you must make sure that you know the law and keep within it. If you don't, you could find yourself in court facing charges ranging from heavy fines to life imprisonment.

If you use your gun safely and responsibly, you will be in no danger of committing an offence. If you are in any doubt, please contact Grampian Police on **0845 6005700** or visit their website **www.grampian.police.uk**

Do you know the law?

In Scotland, it is a crime at Common Law to discharge a firearm **anywhere** in a culpable and reckless manner even if no actual injury is caused.

Did you know that the following is an offence...?

- For anyone under 18 to carry an air weapon unless:
 - They are under the supervision of a person aged 21 or more.
 - They are over 14, on private land and have permission from the occupier.
 - They are shooting as a member of an air weapon club or an approved club.
 - They are shooting at a shooting gallery for miniature rifles.
- For any person, regardless of age, to be in possession of an air weapon and ammunition in a public place without a reasonable excuse.
 - A public place might be anywhere that the public are allowed to go regardless of who owns it, even if they have to pay entry e.g. public roads, parks, play areas, schools etc.
 - A reasonable excuse might be carrying a gun to and from a target-shooting club or to and from land on which you have permission to shoot. It would also include taking a gun to and from a gunsmith for repair or service or taking a new gun home from the dealer.
- To shoot pet animals.

- To have an air weapon with you while in a building or on land without the consent of the owner or without reasonable excuse.
- To have an air weapon with intent to damage property or endanger life.
- To allow any pellets to cross the boundaries of the property when shooting on private land.
- To shoot protected birds or animals. When live quarry shooting; it is your responsibility to make sure that you only shoot legal quarry. For more details about legal quarry read the BASC Air Rifle Code of Practice at **www.basc.org.uk**
- To possess or use an air weapon if you have been sentenced to 3 or more months in custody.
 - If you have been sentenced for up to 3 years there is a 5 year ban.
 - If your sentence is more than 3 years there is a lifetime ban.

