

Project DIVERT

Webinar 26 May 2021

Preventing and combating firearms theft:
possibilities and challenges

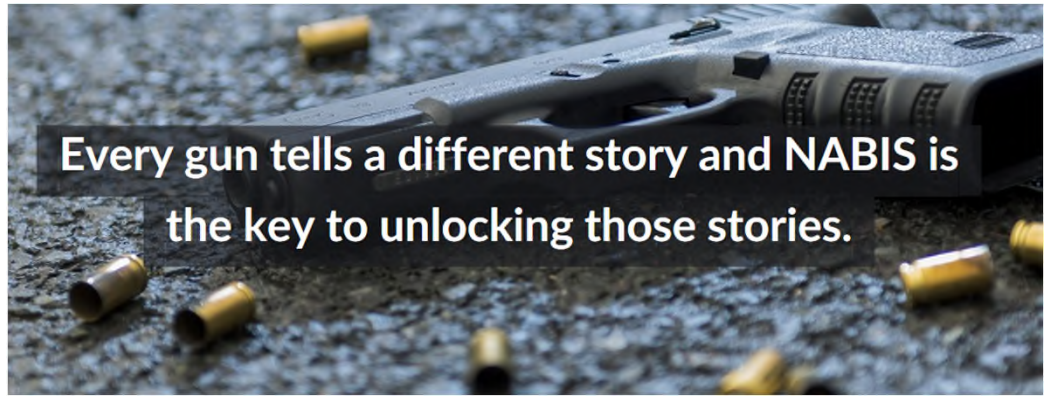
Ian Head – NABIS Head of Intelligence

NABIS Provides

- Integrated forensic and intelligence capability, using ballistic material and associated intelligence to prevent and detect gun crime.
- National Focal Point in relation to ballistics, intelligence and knowledge regarding the criminal use and supply of firearms and ammunition in the UK

Official

NABIS



Official

UK Firearms / Ammunition theft

- Overall in the UK there is limited evidence of bulk theft in transit of firearms/ammunition based on specific targeting.
- However that is not necessarily the case for individual thefts from vehicles or domestic dwellings and properties of firearms and ammunition possessed lawfully by licensed holders.

UK Licensing

- In order to possess a firearm in the UK for lawful purpose an application for a license is made to the relevant police force
- The results of the application and any subsequent granting of certificates are recorded on the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS)
- All legally held firearms are therefore recorded throughout their lifespan from individual to individual and across all UK police forces from first point of sale through to destruction

Firearms Act 1968 to 1987

Firearms Form 104

This certificate is granted for the purpose of section 1 of the Firearms Act 1968 to the holder named below and relates to the shot gun specified

Shot Gun Certificate

Name and address of holder

Photograph of holder

Stamp of issuing Police Force

Post Code

Date of birth

Certificate number

Valid from

to

Usual signature of holder

Signature of Chief Officer of Police

Date

05/12/2019

Conditions

The holder of this certificate is authorised for the purpose of section 2(1) of the Firearms Act 1968 to possess shot guns, subject to the following conditions -

1. The holder must, on receipt of the certificate, sign it in ink with his usual signature.

2. The holder of this certificate must inform the chief officer of police by whom the certificate was granted within seven days of the theft, loss or destruction of Great Britain of the certificate.

3. The holder of the certificate must, without undue delay, inform the chief officer of police by whom the certificate was granted of any change in his permanent address.

4. (a) The shot gun to which the certificate relates must at all times (except in the circumstances set out in paragraph (b) below) be stored securely so as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, access to the shot gun by an unauthorised person.

(b) Where a shot gun to which the certificate relates is in use or the holder of the certificate has the shot gun with him for the purpose of cleaning, repairing or taking it or for some other purpose connected with its use, transfer or sale, or the shot gun is in transit to or from a place in connection with its use or any such purpose, reasonable precautions must be taken for the safe custody of the gun.

Additional statutory conditions may be added here by the chief officer of police.

Firearm and shotgun certificates as at 31 March 2021

UK LICENSED HOLDERS

- 586,351 people held a firearm and /or a shotgun certificate
- 567,358 shotgun certificates were on issue for a total of 1,383,777 shotguns



UK Licensing Lost/Stolen

- All lost or stolen firearms are reported to the police
- NFLMS is updated with the information
- NABIS focal point is updated and an iARMS record is created
- All lost or stolen registered firearms in the UK are therefore recorded on domestic and international systems in the event of their recovery

Lost / Stolen Firearms in the UK 2020

Lawful



Unlawful

420 firearms (shotguns 356) and (rifles 64) were reported as lost or stolen

- 104 were lost
- 316 were stolen



Law Enforcement Approach

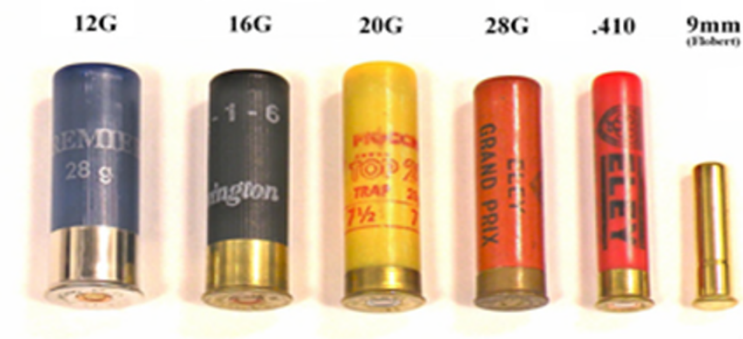
Lost/Stolen Firearms Protocol for the minimum standards of investigation

There are three investigative strands/stages to the strategy:

- Initial scene attendance and victim engagement
- Secondary Investigation
- Suspect identification and recovery of weapons

Law Enforcement Approach

Voluntary Cartridge Retention Scheme



Retain a test fire should the shotgun be lost /stolen and then submit to NABIS for uploading to ABIS to aid eventual use or recovery.

License Holder Approach

- Better Security of their firearm
- Complacency
- Avoid social media advertising



License Holder Approach

Although only a small percentage of lawfully held firearms are lost or stolen each year in the UK the movement of those firearms for unlawful use causes considerable harm to the public in terms of damage, injury and fatalities and is responsible for a large percentage of the criminal use of firearms.

Every effort should be made to secure those firearms to ensure they remain in lawful possession.

Thank you

Ian Head

+44 (0) 7741816522

ian.head@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk