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Reference: #####

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Dear Mr Gough,

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 September in which you seek Home Office clarification as to whether flash suppressors are restricted and require inclusion on a firearm certificate.

As you have set out, Section 57(1) of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended) states:

In this Act, the expression "firearm" means a lethal barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged and includes-

(a) any prohibited weapon, whether it is such a lethal weapon as aforesaid or not ; and

(b) any component part of such a lethal or prohibited weapon ; and

(c) any accessory to any such weapon designed or adapted to diminish the noise or flash caused by firing the weapon ;

and so much of section 1 of this Act as excludes any description of firearm from the category of firearms to which that section applies shall be construed as also excluding component parts of, and accessories to, firearms of that description.

Therefore, I can confirm that section 57(1)(c) covers flash suppressors or such items to diminish the noise or flash caused by the firing of a weapon.

Like sound moderators, flash suppressors are subject to certificate control as "items designed to reduce the noise or flash of a firearm" and you will therefore require good reason to possess them. Flash suppressors are also subject to import licence controls.

Further advice relating to licensing control and firearms certificates may be obtained from your local Police Firearms Licensing Department.

I hope that this deals satisfactorily with your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

N Drummond

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