



Cllr Ian McCrea MLA
Member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board

34 Fairhill Road
Cookstown
BT80 8AG

Tel: 028 867 64952

Email: johnnychartres@ianmccrea.com
cookstown@ianmccrea.com

OUR REF: C/09/256
TO: Paul Givan - Chair of Justice Committee
FROM: Ian McCrea MLA
DATE: 26 July 2012
RE: Tagging on of Miscellaneous Provision to Justice Bill

Dear Paul,

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Justice Committee requesting that a miscellaneous provision be tagged on to the current Justice Bill in relation to statutory prohibitions on holding firearms.

As I am sure you are aware, that currently there exists an 8 year prohibition or a life prohibition, which prohibits a person from purchasing, acquiring or possessing a firearm and ammunition at any time if they are sentenced or were a suspended sentence is imposed. Both of these tariffs of prohibition can be appealed under Article 63 of the The Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 [2004 No.702 (N.I.3)], but these appeals prove extremely difficult to approve.

I feel that if the tariff of prohibition was varied to reflect more accurately the seriousness of an offence rather than those who are convicted of a non violent offence be tarnished with the same period of prohibition, it would produce a fairer system.

I trust this request can be catered and if you would like to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thanking you in anticipation of your reply.

Regards,

Cllr Ian McCrea MLA