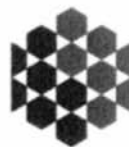


FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of

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Ian Paisley MP
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23 December 2015

Dan Ia

FIREARMS PROPOSALS

You recently wrote to the Chair of the Justice Committee about firearms amendments: your letter has been shared with my office. I am writing to you to seek to correct the impression you have been given about the proposals I plan to bring forward in the Justice (No. 2) Bill.

Firstly, my proposal to reduce the age at which young people can use shotguns while under supervision for clay target shooting is actually a relaxation of our current legislation and in that respect moves us closer to the GB position. I do not support the argument from some organisations however, for a child of 12 (or less) to be permitted to shoot live quarry or vermin over rough ground.

It appears that you have been told that all shotgun users will be obliged to fall under a new club regime. That is not the case. What I propose is a system whereby only those clay target clubs that wish to permit young people to shoot there should apply for an authorisation from the Chief Constable. In other words no other "shotgun club" needs an authorisation. A firearms club is already authorised under the existing legislation. If it wants to extend its remit, it can apply to do so. The aim is to ensure that our

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young people learn to use shotguns under supervision in the most appropriate facilities, for their safety as well as that of others.

I have copied this letter to the Justice Committee for information also.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ford'.

DAVID FORD MLA
Minister of Justice