



Dealer's licence changes

Questions and answers for Museum Directors and Curators

Why was the dealer's licence definition expanded to include director or curator of a bona fide museum?

The latest legislation change has broadened the term "dealer" to include activities beyond buying and selling arms items and ammunition. The intention of including directors or curators of bona fide museums is to improve public safety by better managing the risks of displaying or storing high-risk arms.

Like retail gun stores, Bona fide museums acquire, dispose, store and have firearms on display to the public. Some collections have more high-risk firearms than there would be in possession of individual firearm licence holders. This is why we need to ensure that you have appropriate security for the arms items and ammunition in your collections. This is a significant public safety issue as theft is a major source of firearms in the black market.

Was there any consultation with the public on this change?

Yes, there was an opportunity for the public to provide a submission on the dealer definition expansion when the change was introduced in the Arms Legislation Bill in 2019. Submissions were open to the public between 25 September to 23 October 2019. During this period, the Bill received 3,205 written submissions.

Consideration of museum guidelines and code of ethics

The museum guidelines and code of ethics are great resources. However, the Arms Act sets out our legal obligations, such as allowing inspections by Police of your arms items, having the correct security precautions for your arms items to prevent theft.

These conditions should not interfere with museums from having guidelines and codes of ethics to guide your decisions to acquire, take custody of, lend or dispose of an arms items.

Who needs to apply for a dealer's licence?

The person who has management oversight and control of the display and arms items in your museum's collections must apply for a dealer's licence. This is most likely the current person(s) who is responsible for your collection and has a current firearms licence.

More than one person from your museum can apply for a dealer's licence. This ensures that your museum can continue storing and displaying arms items if one of your dealer licence holders leaves suddenly.

Application for a dealer's licence must be made before Monday 23rd August to continue storing or displaying arms items legally. [Click here](#) to find more information about the application process.

Please note: All employees who are required to handle firearms on your premises will need a firearms licence and appropriate endorsements.

Do we need someone with a Dealer's licence onsite whenever the museum is open?

No, if you have the correct security measures in place, you do not need to have a dealer's licence holder onsite when the museum is open to the public. This means your arms items are locked securely in a storage safe or a display cabinet, and the keys or codes to the cabinet remain with the dealer licence holder.

I only have antique firearms in my collection. Do I need to apply for a dealer's licence?

No, you do not need a dealer's licence if you only have antique firearms in your collection.

Firearms can be classified as antiques if they are manufactured before 1899 and is not capable of firing ammunition.

What is the duration of a dealer's licence?

A dealer's licence is valid for one year. If you currently have a dealer's licence and your renewal application is submitted before the expiry date, you can continue displaying/storing arms items and ammunition until your application is determined. The renewal (if granted) will take effect from the date of expiry of the previous licence.

Do organisations with more than one business site require a person with a dealer's licence at each site?

You need a licenced dealer for each site that possesses/displays arms items or ammunition. You will not need a licenced dealer for the sites that do not hold any arms or ammunition.

Which employees/volunteers' details do I need to provide on my application and why?

You will need to list the details of all the people (employees or volunteers) that can access and remove arms items from an exhibition or have access to the secure storage areas where arms items are held when not being displayed. These are the people that have access to the keys or code to the cabinet.

Police will check that these people are suitable to have access to firearms, have the necessary licence and endorsement(s) to handle your collection.

My museum only has one class of arms item on display, but we hold multiple other classes in storage. Do we need to apply for the endorsements for all classes?

You need an endorsement for all classes of firearms you have in your possession, whether it is physically on display or in storage. Pistols, prohibited firearms, prohibited magazines, and restricted weapons require endorsements. If you have any of these in your collection, you will need to apply for the relevant endorsements. Endorsement on a Director's personal firearms licence can be transferred to their dealer's licence, where it is held for the sole purposes of their employment with the museum.

What should I do if my organisation cannot adequately display or store arms items/ammunition onsite?

If the arms items are held offsite, for security purposes, the location of where they are held needs to be inspected and approved by Police. The person in control of the items must also have the necessary licence and endorsements.

A dealer's licence is required for all arms items that "belong" to the museum (are in the museum's collection), whether they are stored onsite/displayed for public viewing or stored at private addresses by staff or volunteers. Please contact your [local Arms Office](#) to discuss further what you need to do.

If your museum feels that it will be simpler to deaccession the arms items or ammunition. In that case, they can pass them on to another museum that has a director/curator with the appropriate licence and endorsements.

My museum is a registered charity, what capacity should I apply for a dealer's licence as?

Please use the 'body corporate senior manager' role. Body corporate covers any non-living person entity such as limited liability company, incorporated society, or registered charity.

I don't know how to identify the prohibited firearms?

If you are unsure how to identify the firearms in your collection, please get in contact with your [local arms office](#). We will put you in touch with an expert in your community.

What are the secure storage guidelines?

Guidelines for secure storage can be found [here](#). These guidelines will be updated later in the year when the Arms Regulations are published. More information will be sent out to you then.

What are our record-keeping requirements?

Most museums already have great record-keeping systems in place containing the details of the arms items in your collection. If your museum is not doing so already, we ask that you maintain a record of:

- ▶ Acquisitions
- ▶ Disposals (Deaccessions)
- ▶ Lending's (includes those loaned, leased or rented)

We know that most museums keep a record of transactions, including inward and outward loans, deaccessioning and disposal indefinitely. Legally, you must keep these records for 10 years on-site in either hardcopy or electronically.

Record-keeping guidelines will be updated later in the year when the Arms Regulations are published. More information will be sent out to you then.

If I need help?

You can get in touch with your [local Arms Office](#), who can help walk you through the application process or check out the [Apply for a dealer's licence](#) page on Police website.