



Cheshire Constabulary

Your Privacy Firearms Licencing

Why we need to use information

The Police are the licensing authority for firearm and shotgun certificates. This means Cheshire Police need to make assessments on Cheshire residents who wish to seek permission to possess, or to buy, a firearm or shotgun. We also safeguard against, and prevent, threats to public security in relation to explosives.

To do these, we undertake the following tasks within the Firearms Licencing department:

- Process firearms applicants/certificate holders for firearm suitability
- Assess safety of shooting on someone's land
- Maintain audit trails of firearms and their owners (variation and sale of firearms)
- Manage changes to police authority (when certificate holders move to another force area)
- Ensure all firearms and ammunition, where appropriate, are stored in a police-approved manner so as to prevent unlawful access
- Ensure the correct process is followed in respect of quantity, type and storage of explosives which weigh under 2000 Kilos.

The types of information we use

Because of the safety risks associated with holding a firearm and explosives, we are likely to require information about applicants/certificate holders which is considered privacy intrusive.

Examples of personal information collected by us can include names, dates of birth, addresses, contact details, photographs/video images, place of birth, nationality, ethnic origin, identification documents, some financial detail, employment information, information relating to physical and mental health as well as criminal offending and convictions.

Most of this information is provided directly by the individual themselves but it can also come from other forces, a person's GP, and their gun club(s).

Who we might disclose information to

Information used by us can be lawfully shared with other police forces and law enforcement agencies. It can also be shared with the Home Office where required and gun clubs.

How its use is lawful

The Firearms Act 1968 and The Explosives Regulations 2014 provide us with law enforcement powers to safeguard against, and prevent, threats to public security.

The use of personal information for this purpose is lawful in accordance with section 35(2)(b) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (*necessary for a law enforcement purpose*) and schedule 8(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (*necessary for statutory purposes*).

The Firearms Act 1968, and specific national guidance, also give us a task to ensure people who are entrusted with a firearm are medically fit.

The use of personal and special information for this purpose is lawful in accordance with Article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR (*public task*) and Article 9(2)(g) of the UK GDPR, along with schedule 1(6) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (*it is in the substantial public interest for statutory and government purposes*).

How long we keep data

Data held on our core systems is held in line with the [NPCC Review Retention and Disposal Schedule](#). Any recorded video consultations will only be held for 31 days, unless there are specifically needed for longer (e.g. in the event of a complaint). In these cases, recordings are likely to be held for 1 year.

Your rights

Data Protection law provides people with rights when we hold information which can identify them. These rights are subject to certain grounds and exemptions but can include:

- To [request a copy](#) of your information. Known as ‘subject access’
- To request [rectification](#) of inaccurate information and stop us from using this information.
- To [object](#) to us holding medical-related information
- To [request erasure](#) where law enforcement data infringes a data protection principle, we are required by law to delete or where an object request is upheld.
- To complain to our [Data Protection Officer](#) or the [Information Commissioner](#).

Full information about your rights can be found on our general privacy notice at www.cheshire.police.uk. Our Data Protection Officer can be contacted via telephone 01606 36 2384 or email requests@cheshire.police.uk if you have any data protection

concerns. You can also complain to the data protection regulator, the ICO, via their website: www.ico.org.uk.