

Outstanding Reference: 11 – Firearms/Explosives Licence Audit

Response from: UPD Licensing, CoLP
Response to: Chairman, Performance and Resource Management Sub-Committee

“Please find below an explanation from UPD Licensing, of the sentence that was in the Performance –v- Measures report appendix under Measure 6- Victim based violence ‘Activity’ which stated:

“Licencing team have undertaken an audit of all personnel connected with firearms and explosives licence and will entail PNC/PND checks of some sixty individuals.”

To put this into context, the above was included to reassure Members that the Licensing Team are contributing to the prevention of any potential serious violent crime by complying with APP guidance to undertake initial and then ongoing background checks at reasonable intervals on all individuals who hold firearms and explosive substance licenses in the City of London. Without these checks some individuals may have gained convictions or come to light in some other way that would deem their access to the firearms/ explosive substance as likely to cause danger to themselves or others.

For example, an individual applies for a shotgun certificate. PNC shows no convictions but a PND check reveals strong intelligence linking the individual with organised criminal activity. CoLP would seek to oppose the application in the interests of public safety believing the subject not to be a fit and proper person to be licensed for any firearm/explosive.

The Licensing Inspector states that these checks have prevented individuals with, for example substance misuse problems, connections to organised crime and a history of violent conduct either holding certificates or working with explosives with companies that specialise in such work.”