

Guns and firearms

If you are concerned about someone you know who a firearm may have, contact the Police: your local police on [101](#), or dial [999](#) if a crime is in progress or a life is in danger.

If you can't talk to police, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers by calling [0800 555 111](#) or using their [online reporting form](#) and give information about crime anonymously.

You need a firearms certificate issued by the police to possess, buy or acquire a firearm or shotgun.

You must also have a certificate to buy ammunition.

It's illegal for anyone aged under 18 to purchase an imitation firearm and for anyone to sell an imitation firearm to someone aged under 18.

Certain firearms are completely prohibited. You won't be able to get a certificate for them and it is an offence to possess, buy or acquire them without the authority of the Home Secretary.

It is an offence to be in possession of a firearm, a shotgun or dangerous air-weapon and certain ammunition without a certificate or to be in possession of a prohibited weapon.

Carrying a weapon

If you're caught illegally carrying a knife or a gun, even an imitation one, you will be arrested and prosecuted. It's no excuse to say it was for your own protection or you were carrying it for someone else.

Remember - the law is clear - if you choose to carry a weapon, you put your future in danger. If you don't take it with you, it won't be used. Learn more by visiting [Knife Free](#).

Play your part in reducing knife and gun crime by reporting people you know or suspect may be carrying a weapon illegally.