

## 1 What is the Gwent Firearms Licensing Department?

Gwent Police Firearms Licensing Department (FLD) are responsible for granting explosives, firearms, and shotgun licenses for residents and businesses within the Gwent Police area.

They are also able to suspend or revoke licenses and remove explosives, firearms or shotguns in certain circumstances (see boxes 3 & 4)

Gwent Police manage approximately 7000 firearms and shotgun certificates.



## Firearms Licensing and Project Titanium



## 2 Context for Change

Gwent Police has recently reviewed its approach to firearms licensing and monitoring and ensures that public safety and protection is at the forefront of all decision making.

The catalyst for change was the tragic Plymouth shooting in 2021 where a registered certificate holder shot and killed 6 people (including himself) and injured a further two.

There have also been a number of cases in Wales where firearms or shotguns have been used against victims of domestic abuse, including as a tool for coercive control. The following link details the experience of Rhiannon Bragg who was held at gunpoint by her partner in 2019 [Domestic abuse: Mum held at gunpoint says stalker will reoffend - BBC News](#)

## 7 Contact Details

Practitioners can contact Gwent Firearms Licensing Department if:

- You have concerns around a person you are supporting/working with
- If you have concerns or queries regarding the safety of staff (for example to check if there are firearms registered at an address prior to a home visit)
- To share or request information.

- **Inspector Jodie Davies** [Jodie.davies@gwent.police.uk](mailto:Jodie.davies@gwent.police.uk)
- **Sgt Mike Price** [Michael.price@gwent.police.uk](mailto:Michael.price@gwent.police.uk) 07966747598
- **Admin Alix Lloyd** [Alix.Lloyd@gwent.police.uk](mailto:Alix.Lloyd@gwent.police.uk) 07970008447
- [Firearmslicensing@gwent.police.uk](mailto:Firearmslicensing@gwent.police.uk)

## 3 How are Licences Monitored?

All certificate holders and their addresses are subject to monitoring. This can include planned and unannounced visits, drug and alcohol testing, social media checks, and PNC, PND, ACRO and Interpol checks. Information can also be sought from third parties such as employers, probation, social services, and partners/family members.

Decisions are made with a lower threshold than that for criminal responsibility, using the **'balance of probabilities,'** test. This is particularly important where there are concerns in respect of domestic abuse which may not have resulted in a conviction.

## 6 Project Titanium – How it Works

- A set of 30 questions designed by survivors to identify domestic abuse is administered with partners and/or family members.
- There is no scoring system or risk matrix, but the responses receive management oversight to support evidence-based decision making.
- The project has been supported in the Crown Court where it was stated that *'Operation Titanium is a valid police approach, and domestic violence is an issue which the respondent is right to have at the forefront of his mind when considering whether or not to grant a firearms certificate. As we were properly reminded during the hearing, holding a firearm certificate is a privilege, rather than a right.'*

## 5 Project Titanium – Background

- Project Titanium is a specific set of questions created by survivors of gun crime offences to help identify if domestic abuse is present in the homes of licensed or prospective firearms holders.
- The project was started by Gwent Police and has also been piloted by Metropolitan, Bedfordshire/Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire Police forces during 2022/23.
- Many more force areas are joining and it is hoped the project will become national.
- Project Titanium allows partners voices to be heard during the firearms licensing process and even if the partner declines initially, it 'leaves the door open,' should they wish to engage in the future.

## 4 Reasons for Revocation

- Associations with known or suspected criminals
- Evidence of dishonesty, or threatening/abusive/anti-social behaviour
- Evidence of reckless behaviour, lack of self-control or restraint, or disregard for the safety of others
- Indications that the individual will not handle the firearm responsibly
- Insufficiently secure storage arrangements
- Evidence of relationship difficulties or domestic turmoil (this does not have to be domestic abuse; it may include divorce proceedings or discord over child custody)
- Unmanaged debts, financial pressures, abnormal financial activity or unexplained sources of income
- Relevant medical conditions (including alcohol and drug misuse)