

Hand in guns to your local police and you won't be prosecuted for having them illegally

Gun crime is a cause of major fear and distress, and a real problem in certain areas.

In particular, there is growing concern about young people carrying and misusing firearms to boost their image.

Air weapons are dangerous when they are in the wrong hands. People have been blinded, scarred for life or even killed by them. Pets and wildlife have been killed or hurt, and property has been damaged.

But there is something that you can do to reduce the number of guns available for criminals to use. There will be a firearms 'amnesty' in England, Wales and Scotland from 31 March to 30 April.



www.getgunsoffthestreets.co.uk



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GET GUNS OFF THE STREETS

GUN AMNESTY
AND HAND-IN
MARCH 31ST
TO
APRIL 30TH



Home Office



An amnesty means people can hand in guns they shouldn't have without being prosecuted for having them. During this amnesty we want people to hand in:

- **illegally-held guns and ammunition;**
- **imitation firearms and air guns used for criminal purposes; and**
- **other unwanted guns and ammunition, including air guns and imitations.**

If you have a gun that falls into any of these categories, hand it in.

Perhaps you know somebody who does, maybe somebody who is close to you. If you do, encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity before it is too late.

Remember, every gun given up is one less that criminals can use.



What is an illegally-held gun?

If you have any firearm or shotgun, other than a low-powered air gun, you must have a valid certificate from the police. There are also restrictions on possessing ammunition, stun guns and CS and pepper sprays.

There are several reasons why people might own guns and ammunition without valid certificates. The guns could be war souvenirs or have been passed on following the death of a relative. Some people may even have a firearm and not realise that they need a licence. Others will have got hold of them deliberately for criminal purposes.

What should I do?

The amnesty makes it very simple for you to give up guns, ammunition and other weapons. Choose the option that suits you best.

- 1 Go to your local police station and hand them in.
- 2 If you can't go in person, or are worried about handling the gun, contact your local police to make arrangements to hand it in. Look for their number in your local directory. **Please don't phone 999.**

If you don't want to give your name and address, you don't have to.

By handing the gun or other items to the police, you are giving up ownership. Remember, **during the amnesty you will not be prosecuted for possessing a firearm illegally if you hand it in.**

What happens if I don't take advantage of the amnesty?

If you don't hand in a gun which you have illegally, you may be prosecuted.

The maximum penalty for illegally possessing a gun or ammunition is up to 10 years in prison or a fine (or both).



After the amnesty, the Government will also be introducing tough new sentences and laws for a number of firearms-related offences.

- Anybody in possession of a firearm that has been banned will get at least five years in prison.
- It will be an offence to possess an imitation firearm or air gun in a public place without legal authority or reasonable excuse.

The police will be organising a crackdown on firearms.

Take advantage of this opportunity and get rid of that gun before it's too late.

When handing in a gun

- Be very careful.
- Make sure it's not loaded.
- **Never** point a gun at anyone.