



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
President: HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES KG KT GCB
Chairman: JOHN WEBSTER
Chief Executive: ANDREW MERCER

Mr Mark Rowley
Assistant Commissioner, Specialist Operations
Metropolitan Police
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London SW1H 0BG

2nd November 2016

Dear Mr Rowley

I read your recent statement published by the Daily Telegraph regarding the responsibility of certificate holders for the security of their firearms with interest.

You reported that 800 firearms go missing each year; this is a tiny fraction of the 2 million legally held firearms in Great Britain so if there is any carelessness amongst certificate holders they represent a miniscule minority.

I assume "missing" means stolen as a consequence of a breach of security - or does this figure include administrative errors?

That said one missing firearm is one too many; it would be particularly helpful if you could provide a detailed breakdown of the 800 losses so that shooting organisations can alert their members to particular trends and threats.

- Does the 800 reported losses relate to firearms only?
- Does the count include ammunition and air rifles?
- Were the majority of losses associated with car thefts or domestic break-ins?
- Does the 800 include missing police or military firearms?
- How many of the 800 were subsequently found / recovered?

Any information you can provide will assist the shooting community in improving the security of their firearms.

We have this week alerted NRA members to the cases where members of Aintree Pistol Club have been attacked and robbed of their guns when returning home from a club visit; our social media postings can reach over 300,000 in a week and are a very effective communication tool.

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You have appealed to the public to tell the police if they know of a gun owner who treats security in a cavalier way. How would you expect the member of public to know? I fear your appeal may result in telephone calls from worried members of the public reporting gun owners going about their legal and responsible business.

The press report suggests that 800 firearms went missing as a result of criminal acts of negligence by certificate holders failing to ensure appropriate security. This is unhelpful. There is no sector of the community that has a greater interest in security of firearms than certificate holders; engaging with them in a positive manner will assist in delivering our common objective to have firearms solely in the possession of law abiding responsible certificate holders.

The NRA is keen and willing to assist you in this endeavour; please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further details.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Mercer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Mercer
Group Chief Executive & Secretary General