

Note TXS A249/07

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations in London and has the honour to remind them of the regulations about the import, acquisition, possession and use of firearms in the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom authorities take very seriously their responsibility for the protection of Missions and Organisations and their staff. However, only designated police officers in the United Kingdom are allowed to hold firearms, and it is against the law for anyone else to hold firearms without the appropriate certificate. These certificates will not be granted for firearms or shot guns that are intended for personal protection, and the Police have a duty to prevent the unauthorised possession of firearms. Persons suspected of possessing an unauthorised firearm are likely to be questioned. The rules about the issue of Firearms Certificates for sporting purposes are attached.

The United Kingdom authorities take an equally serious view of any failure to observe firearms regulations. Protocol Directorate would like to take this opportunity to remind Missions that it will normally ask for the withdrawal of any member of a Diplomatic Mission or International Organisation who breaks these regulations.

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations in London the assurances of its highest consideration.



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