



Guy Micklewright

YEAR OF CALL: 2004

Firearms Licensing & Appeals

Guy has significant experience of appeals against revocations of licences, refusals of grants, suitability reviews and police seizure of firearms and shotguns. He has a detailed knowledge of the law, statutory guidance, and police procedures.

As a regular clay and game shot himself, Guy not just understands the importance to members of the shooting community of robustly defending their legal rights and the distress and impact that can result from the loss of a certificate. He is able to use his knowledge in order to fully understand a client's needs and to assist clients in identifying the right legal solution for their situation. With police forces becoming ever more risk-averse in their approach to licensing and the consequent increase in seizures and revocations, Guy adopts a pragmatic approach, seeking to avoid litigation where possible and avoid clients having to surrender their firearms unnecessarily.

Guy is also able to rely upon his extensive experience of practising in the healthcare sector to address cases with a medical component.

Firearms Law & Estate Management

Guy is also able to advise on the impact of firearms law on the activities of shooting estates and agricultural land. Issues that commonly arise include managing the activities of animal rights activists; ensuring that estates and farms are acting within the terms of the general licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; and ensuring that landowners are compliant with firearms legislation when non-certificate holders are invited onto their land to shoot.

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Guy's own experience of assisting in the running of a shooting syndicate allows him to inform his advice by his understanding of the impact of the law at a deeply practical level.

Recent Instructions

Guy acts for private individuals, estates and police forces. Cases in recent years have included:

- advising a commercial shooting estate following the arrest of their Head Gamekeeper for possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and the seizure of their firearms and shotguns. The matter was resolved without further action taken by the police and the guns returned;
- representing a private individual following the revocation of their licence as a result of an assault. The decision was overturned on appeal;
- representing the owner of a zoo who was notified that the police would revoke his firearms certificate unless he stored his firearms with a Registered Firearms Dealer following a complaint of domestic violence from a former partner. The police were persuaded that to revoke his certificate would put him in breach of statutory duties relating to the zoo, and that their approach was disproportionate and unlawful.

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