

TKC120

## Tackling Knife Crime – A Consultation

### Response from Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership

#### Question 1

##### **Should a licence be needed to sell non-domestic knives?**

Yes there should be a licensing system for those people who wish to sell non-domestic knives.

Account should be taken in establishing this system of sales of knives via the internet and the system and associated legislation should address this issue.

#### Question 2

##### **What types of knives should be covered by a definition of non-domestic knives?**

We are aware of the potential complexity around definitions of domestic and non-domestic knives e.g. the position of 'Stanley' knives which have both domestic and non-domestic uses. Any definition needs to be clear and easy to understand for members of the public to avoid unintentional breach of any legislation and to allow for effective publicity around any ban.

Similar complexities of definition exist around definitions of swords and particularly around the differences between a sword and a samurai sword.

#### Question 3

##### **What conditions should be imposed on someone seeking a licence to sell non-domestic knives?**

There should be a "fit and proper person" test on anyone seeking a licence to sell non-domestic knives

Those licensed to sell such knives should be required to keep full records of sales of non-domestic knives

#### Question 4

##### **What would be the costs for businesses of licensing the sale of knives?**

Costs for businesses should reflect the costs to the police and/or local authority in managing the licensing system, including the checking of applications in relation to a 'fit and proper person' test.

Any licensing system should not pose an excessive administrative burden on the agency carrying out the system, and the need for a clear definition of affected knives will be important in this regard.

#### Question 5

##### **Should it be a criminal offence to purchase a (non-domestic) knife (from an unlicensed seller)?**

In relation to whether the purchase of non-domestic knives should be a crime, the view from our Police partner was that it should not be a crime to purchase a knife but the onus should be on the people selling knives.

This is generally supported however there are concerns about the use of the internet to buy such knives. It may be necessary to include a criminal offence of purchasing such knives from an unlicensed seller to address the issue of internet sales.

#### Question 6

##### **Should shops require a licence to sell swords?**

<p>Similar licensing requirements should be in place for swords as for non-domestic knives. The issue of internet sales also needs a similar approach to that of non-domestic knives</p>
<p><b>Question 7</b> <b>Should the sale of swords by shops be restricted to require them to sell only to members of approved organisations?</b> No specific comment on this question</p>
<p><b>Question 8</b> <b>Should the sale of all swords be banned?</b> No, there should not be a general ban on sales of swords. Many people who currently own swords do so for legitimate reasons connected with sports, as part of collections or as decorative items.</p>
<p><b>Question 9</b> <b>If so, should there be any groups who are exempted from that ban (i.e. should there be any reasons/uses for which it remains legitimate to sell swords?)</b> Many people who currently own swords do so for legitimate reasons connected with sports, as part of collections or as decorative items, and the system and associated legislation should not criminalise such people or restrict people from sporting use of swords or for decorative or collection purposes.</p>
<p><b>Question 10</b> <b>Should the sale of only samurai swords be banned?</b> Issues about sale and ownership of samurai swords are similar to those in relation to ordinary swords.</p>
<p><b>Question 11</b> <b>If so, should any groups of people be exempt from that ban (i.e.. Should there be any reasons/uses for which it remains legitimate to sell samurai swords)?</b> See Question 9</p>
<p><b>Question 12</b> <b>How should a samurai sword be defined?</b> See Question 2</p>
<p><b>Question 13</b> <b>Is there a case for individual licences for the purchase of swords?</b> No specific comment</p>