

18/8/05

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16th August 2005

Mr. Gery McLaughlin  
Scottish Executive Justice department  
Criminal Justice Division  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

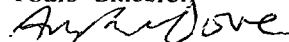
**TACKLING KNIFE CRIME - A CONSULTATION**

Dear Mr. McLaughlin,

In replying to your consultation document on behalf of the Arms & Armour Society, which is international in scope with members in 26 countries, and which has considered the Scottish Executive's proposals at a recent meeting, I am asked to forward to you the following observations :

- 1). We applaud the Scottish Executive's recognition of the importance of collectors in the preservation and understanding of the heritage, and that they are entitled to some consideration.
- 2). Under the proposed legislation, demands on police time could be excessive with little benefit to the public.
- 3). We fear that the outcome of such legislation will result in driving Scottish Heritage underground and some artifacts may even leave the country.
- 4). We do not feel that the sale of swords should be banned but if this legislation is introduced, exemptions should be made for certain responsible groups i.e. collectors, and anything to do with a country's National Heritage
- 5). The proposed definition of a sword is inadequate as it allows for too many loopholes.
- 6). Finally, it must be appreciated that there can be considerable investment by collectors in such weapons and we presume that compensation will be given in the event of confiscation.

Yours Sincerely



(A. Dove - Hon. Secretary)