



*Black Raven Living History
Carrick 800 Battle Re-enactment Society*

Wednesday 10th August 2005

TKC041

Tackling Knife Crime – A Consultation

On behalf of the above I submit the following comments on the above consultation.

SECTION 2

Restricting sale of knives and swords

Q1; I would agree that a licence should be needed to sell non-domestic knives.

Q2: A definition of non-domestic knife should include, period and mediaeval daggers, reproduction science fiction/fantasy daggers and throwing knives and reproduction fantasy film knives.

Q3: Generally, yes except for the requirement of a “cooling off” period between approach and sale. Many suppliers will be based far from legitimate purchasers and this condition could add considerable to their costs, travel etc. In addition legitimate purchasers ie. Re-enactment Groups, theatrical Groups etc may require a short notice purchase for a particular event.

Q4: It would be unfortunate if this were excessive. Local Authorities as usual would see this as a further excuse to raise finance when all that is needed is an administrative charge. It is the licence, which is important.

Purchase of Non Domestic Knives only from a licensed seller

Q5: This would be practically impossible to enforce and it would appear more effective to target illegal sellers rather than purchasers.

Inclusion of Swords in Licensing Scheme for Knife sales

Q6: This appears a reasonable control but it must be remembered that many legitimate sword purchases i.e. again by Re-enactment participants are made directly from the manufacturing swordsmith.

Q7: Generally Yes although the situation of a legitimate private collector not part of an “organisation” buying an antique needs to be covered.

Ban the Sale of Swords

Q8: An outright ban would be wrong and have a devastating effect on Re-enactment Stage Shows and ultimately the Scottish Tourist Industry. A ban could be considered on Samurai reproduction weapons, which are the commonest cause of criminal action

Sword sales must be controlled but by licensing rather than an outright ban .

Q9: If a ban were introduced then Re-enactment Groups, Theatrical Groups, Cultural Groups and Living History Societies etc must be exempted to protect our tourist industry and historical heritage.

Ban on Sale of Samurai Swords

Q10 Yes. These reproduction swords are sharp edged and most often the cause of sword crime in Scotland. Sale of these weapons has no historical or cultural connection with Scotland and I can see no genuine need for such sales.

Q11 I can see no genuine or sensible reason for any Scot to want to own one of these weapons other than a museum or genuine sword collector purchasing an antique.

Q12: Any single edged Japanese reproduction sword of any description.

License the purchasers of Swords

Q13: I would agree that this provision could be costly to establish and operate. I consider that the proposals on the licensing of shops and traders selling these weapons should be sufficient provided they keep records of who has purchased them. An onus could be placed on anyone considered to be in ownership of a sword to prove where he or she obtained it could be included.

Denis W. Reid

Proprietor Black Raven Living History

Secretary of Carrick 800 Battle Re-enactment Society

Annex C – Respondee Information Form

NAME: Denis W. Reid