

**Department of Neighbourhood Services**

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**East Ayrshire**  
COUNCIL

20<sup>th</sup> July 2005

Our Ref : WS/SD

Knife Crime Consultation Team  
Scottish Executive  
Criminal Justice Division  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Dear Sirs

I refer to the consultation paper "Tackling Knife Crime" which was issued by The Scottish Executive earlier this month.

The Council, like most agencies, are concerned about the rapid increase in knife related crime and therefore welcome the proposals. It is however felt that legislation on the sale of knives, in itself would be insufficient and must form part of an overall package aimed at changing attitudes to carrying knives, particularly by young males if it is to be truly effective.

I would however respond to the specific questions in the consultation as follows:-

1. Yes. This may be relatively easy to implement using the provisions of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act.
2. This is a relatively difficult question to answer since many types of knife exist and some have potentially dual purposes. For example, where do Swiss Army Knives and knives which are used for gardening fit into the proposals. Certain types of knife cannot in any shape or form fall into the category of non domestic and these include hunting knives, sheath knives, sharp pointed 'stabbing' knives. 'Stanley' knives, craft knives, folding blade knives, small cleavers and butchers knives.
3. Similar to those applicable for the sale of firearms.

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4. Unknown at this stage but this should not be an issue.
5. Yes
6. Yes
7. Yes. Controls should also be placed on the disposal of swords when membership of the approved organisation lapses.
8. Not necessarily if effective control can be obtained through licensing and restrictions on sale.
9. See 7) above.
10. See previous responses. Sale to be restricted to martial arts groups.
11. See 10) above.
12. The best definition will probably be based on the physical characteristics but should also make reference to replica since I understand that genuine Samurai swords are made by folding steel in a particular manner.
13. Possibly since this could be the control measure for the disposal of swords mentioned in 7) above.

The above comments represent an officer view and have not been subject to committee approval. However, I hope that you will find them helpful.

A response information form is attached.

Yours faithfully



William Stafford  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

CC Fiona Lees, Chief Executive