

TKC154

Q1

Q2 The distinction between domestic and non-domestic knives is hard if not impossible to make. A small kitchen knife could make a good hunting knife. Hunting knives are food preparation knives (I believe deerstalkers who sell their meat on, now need food hygiene certificates). A large kitchen knife would make an extremely dangerous weapon.

Q3a The suggested conditions look unreasonable if you consider that a 40 something law abiding fisherman would have to go through all these checks - including making 2 trips to the shop, to get a new gutting knife, but a 16 year old "ned" could walk into a hardware store and buy a Stanley knife the same day. There might be a point to the restrictions if the SE felt that it was particularly important to restrict the type of knife used to injure people. I doubt it makes much difference to the victim.

Q3b

Q4

Q5 No. How would anyone know where the knife was bought, how would a customer know if the seller was licensed.

Q6 This might be a good idea, although it would not prevent mail order sales from the rest of the UK, it may prevent some impulse purchases.

Q7 No, there is not only tourist sales to consider, but also how an organisation gets approved - eg not every martial art school is a member of a national body.

Q8 No. Not only would there be problems banning sales of something in one part of the UK that is legally available in other parts, but there are no statistics available to show that sword crime is a significant problem. I have asked for evidence from various Ministers only to be told that numbers are not recorded separately from other bladed items (including domestic knives not even covered by this consultation). I would have thought that the very least that the SE should do before banning anything is to demonstrate that there is a specific problem that banning that item would solve, ie statistics should be recorded detailing the different types of weapons used in assaults/murders before making assumptions and banning things as a kneejerk reaction.

Q9 I do not accept that swords should be banned, but the exceptions listed in the consultation paper are all reasonable, which demonstrates the difficulties of imposing any sort of ban.

Q10 No, I don't believe that stigmatising one type of sword will improve anything. If anything it would increase the "desirability" of the specific sword amongst exactly the type of person that this consultation is trying to prevent from owning them. It is important to note at this point that banning something is not the same as preventing its use in crime, otherwise there would be no handgun crime as they are illegal throughout the UK. Any change in law only affects law abiding people.

Q11 Yes, there should be exceptions, the majority of martial arts are Japanese in origin. Which is one reason that there is little chance of drafting a law that is effective but fair.

Q12

Q13 I would have thought that to justify such a large piece of new legislation the onus should be on the SE to PROVE that there is a need for it. As mentioned above there are currently no figures recording sword crimes separately from other crimes with blades.