

TKC011

> I have a couple of questions regarding the bill and how it will
> affect my sport; Fencing. In my opinion fencing swords are not
> 'swords' as such - they are items of sporting equipment. I note from
> the consultation article that swords are defined as 'a thrusting,
> striking or cutting weapon with a long blade having one or two edges
> and a hilt or handle'. This is a very general description which
> could, in theory, include Foil, Epee and Sabres (I refer only to the
> Fencing equivalent). However none of these weapons has an edge, nor
> could they easily be sharpened. It's true that the tip could be
> broken off, allowing the wielder to pierce someone, but I would
> contend that (unless the recipient was very unlucky) you would not
> receive a fatal wound. I know a couple of people who have been
> 'run-through' accidentally and they are still alive to talk about it.
> In fact modern Fencing equipment is designed to be safe; to avoid
> injury. There are other far more dangerous items of sporting
> equipment namely: baseball bats, cricket bats, Golf clubs and Hockey
> sticks. If I were to choose a sporting item to inflict damage I would
> pick one of those. I note that there seems to be no proposal to
> license or ban them. I would be willing to offer a demonstration of
> fencing /weapons/ to the Executive so that they can see for themselves
> how they work and how they are made. On a wider note I fail to see
> how this legislation will have an impact on murder in Scotland. If
> someone wants to kill someone they will. The proposed bill does not
> include screwdrivers yet I understand that they are quite effective
> when used to stab someone. Additionally rocks and bricks are quite
> effective for bashing someone over the head yet I see no bill
> outlawing them either. I would also like to know how the executive
> intends to control the sale of general domestic kitchen knives? I see
> that mentioned on the proposal and don't understand how the is going
> to be enforced.
> Finally, will this legislation affect the sale of anitque swords?
> This bill seems ineffective and a waste of executive time. I have
> also forwarded this email to my local MSP and requested that he lobby
> Cathy Jamieson regarding this. I would appreciate a response to my
> points.
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> Yours sincerely
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> Gavin McMenemy
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