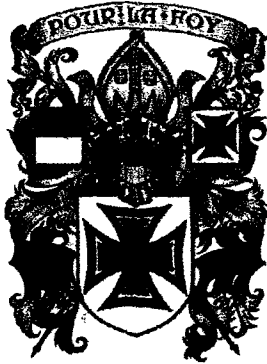


TKC089

16/9/05



The Order of the Temple
The Great Priory of Scotland
41 Bo'ness Road, Grangemouth, Scotland, U.K. FK3 8AN
Tel./Ans./ Fax (00 44) (0) 1324-877777

David A C Niven CSt.J, FSA Scot.
Grand Secretary

Scottish Executive
Justice Dept. Criminal Justice Division
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

September 15th 2005

Re; Consultation, tackling knife crime

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of the "Tackling knife crime" information /consultation pack which you kindly sent, please find enclosed the completed questionnaire, I have also been requested by the above organisation to write in the following terms;

The senior members of our Order having discussed the implications of any ban on the sale and carrying of swords, daggers etc. are, of course, in complete agreement at the change of legislation which lessens the potential for serious injury and death by such weapons.

However, they have expressed disappointment that a particular section has not been added to include Fraternal Organisations such as ourselves, the Great Priory of Scotland in its current form has existed for almost a hundred years and its two progenitor organisations existed for over one hundred years before the amalgamation in 1909.

We therefore have a very long and proud history within Scotland and our members have been carrying swords and daggers for ceremonial purposes for the duration of that history, any ban on the carrying and sale of

..... swords and daggers would impact very greatly on the whole fabric of our Order.

At the present time our members, whilst transporting these ceremonial items, already carry them in suitable and appropriate containers ie. leather/ canvas cases designed specifically for that purpose.

We therefore request that the Great Priory of Scotland be given a dispensation to allow our members to be able to continue their peaceful activities without breaching any amended law.

Our sincere and earnest hope is that this will be permissible to the Scottish Executive and appropriate legislation can be applied to the Order of the Temple in, what we deem to be, a very specific case.

I trust these comments are of interest and I look forward with keen anticipation to your consideration of this matter and your subsequent reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. McIn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Grand Secretary.

Consultation Questions

<p>Question 1</p> <p>Should a licence be needed to sell non-domestic knives?</p> <p>YES</p>
<p>Question 2</p> <p>What types of knife should be covered by a definition of a non-domestic knife?</p> <p>A KNIFE WHICH COULD NOT PRACTICALLY BE USED IN THE KITCHEN, OR PEN KNIVES OF A CERTAIN SIZE OF BLADE</p>
<p>Question 3</p> <p>What conditions should be imposed on someone seeking a licence to sell non-domestic knives?</p> <p>SIMILAR TO THOSE IMPOSED ON THOSE SELLING GUNS</p>
<p>Question 4</p> <p>What would be the costs for businesses of licensing the sale of knives?</p>

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<p>Question 5</p> <p>Should it be a criminal offence to purchase a (non-domestic) knife from an unlicensed seller?</p> <p>YES</p>
<p>Question 6</p> <p>Should shops require a licence to sell swords?</p> <p>YES</p>
<p>Question 7</p> <p>Should the sale of swords by shops be restricted to require them to sell only to members of approved organisations?</p> <p>YES</p>
<p>Question 8</p> <p>Should the sale of all swords be banned?</p> <p>NO</p>

<p>Question 9 If so, should there be any groups who are exempted from that ban (i.e. should there be any reasons/uses for which it remains legitimate to sell swords)? YES - FRIATERNAL ORGANISATIONS, HISTORIC SOCIETIES, ETC</p>
<p>Question 10 Should the sale of only samurai swords be banned? YES</p>
<p>Question 11 If so, should any groups of people be exempt from that ban (i.e. should there be any reasons/uses for which it remains legitimate to sell samurai swords)? WARRIOR ARTS GROUPS ?</p>
<p>Question 12 How should a samurai sword be defined?</p>
<p>Question 13 Is there a case for individual licences for the purchase of swords? TAKE INDIVIDUAL WARRIOR BE GIVEN A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY FROM HIS OFFICIAL/LEGITIMATE ORGANISATION.</p>

Responsee Information Form

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately.

We will make all responses available to the public in the Scottish Executive Library, unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the website.

Name: DAVID A. C. NIVEN (GRAND SECRETARY).....

Postal Address: THE GREAT PRIDEY OF SCOTLAND.....

41 BOLNESS RD, GRANGEMOUTH, STRIKINGSHIRE, FK3 8AW.....

Consultation title:
TACKLING KNIFE CRIME - A CONSULTATION

1. Are you responding as:

- (a) an individual (go to 2a/b)
- (b) on behalf of a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2a. Individuals:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all