



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

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President: HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES KG KT GCB
Chairman: JOHN WEBSTER
Chief Executive: ANDREW MERCER

Stephen Rodhouse, Esq.
Director General Operations, National Crime Agency
Spring Gardens, 1.5 Citadel Place
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31st October 2018

Dear Mr Rodhouse

Offensive Weapons Bill

I write in response to your letter dated 23rd October 2018.

To be candid you have neatly avoided answering two key questions posed in my letter of 18th October 2018.

Firstly I asked for your confirmation of how many firearms were stolen from premises with security enhanced to Level 3 of the Home Office Security Handbook. You provided no response save a vague reference to firearms being stolen from "victims with comprehensive security arrangements".

I therefore deduce that either (1) you are aware that no firearms have been stolen from premises with Level 3 security; or (2) you have no data to confirm whether firearms have been stolen from premises with Level 3 security.

In either case this suggests that your claim to the Home Secretary "this demonstrates that even where security provisions have been taken, the risks cannot fully be mitigated of one of these devastatingly powerful weapons being stolen" was misleading.

Secondly, querying your statement to the Home Secretary that there was an "emergence of higher powered weapons arriving in the criminal market", I asked for your confirmation of how many illegal .50" calibre rifles have been seized by law enforcement over the past 5 years.

The only conclusion that can be deduced from the lack of your response to this question is that the answer is none; again this suggests your statement to the Home Secretary was misleading.

I accept that the work of the NCA is difficult and challenging; however as a publicly funded body it is imperative you retain the confidence of the very public you are charged to serve. I would respectfully suggest that evasive responses to honest questions, fairly posed, do great harm to the organisation you lead. You have stated there was "no intent" to make misleading or hyperbolic statements so I can only assume they have been made erroneously.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Mercer
Chief Executive