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Dear Roy,

**Policing and Crime Bill: Firearms**

During the debate on the Government amendments to the firearms provisions in Part 6 of the Bill on 9 November, I undertook to write to you about the application of these provisions to Northern Ireland (Hansard, column 1159).

I can confirm that firearms are a reserved matter in England, Wales and Scotland. Section 60(3) of the Firearms Act 1968 provides that the Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland, where the possession of firearms is subject to separate legislation.

The Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, as most recently amended by the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2016, provides the equivalent legislative framework for the licensing of civilian and prohibited weapons. The regulation of air weapons is also devolved in Northern Ireland, as is the case in Scotland following the coming into force of the Scotland Act 2012.

The Home Office regularly exchanges updates with the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland on changes to firearms licensing processes and firearms legislation.

I am copying this letter to Lord Rosser, Lord Paddick, Baroness Hamwee, Lord Attlee and Lord Harris of Haringey; I am also placing a copy in the library of the House.

Baroness Williams of Trafford