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Dear Richard,

**POLICING AND CRIME BILL: GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS FOR LORDS REPORT STAGE**

I am writing to let you have details of one further Government amendment (copy attached) for Report stage of the Bill which I have tabled today.

At Commons Report stage Geoffrey Clifton-Brown tabled amendments (new clauses 7, 8 and 9) seeking to make further changes to the Firearms Acts (official Report, 26 April 2016, columns 1384-1387). The then Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime undertook to consider these amendments further. You will recall that at Committee stage, I tabled amendments (now clauses 115 and 116) to give effect to two of the changes proposed by Geoffrey Clifton-Brown. New clause '*Authorised lending and possession of firearms for hunting etc*' gives effect to one further such change to the Firearms Act 1968 (the 1968 Act).

It is already the case that section 11(5) of the 1968 Act and section 16 of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988 enable a person who does not hold a shotgun or firearms certificate to borrow a shotgun or firearm from the occupier of private premises and use it in the presence of the occupier (or, in the case of section 16, his 'servant'). The Law Commission, amongst others, have identified ambiguities surrounding these provisions. To help clarify the current law, this new clause repeals these existing provisions and replaces them with a new section 11A of the 1968 Act. New section 11A aims to ensure that a person can borrow a rifle or shot gun not only from a person entitled to allow entry to private premises for the purposes of shooting, but also from a certificate holder who has been authorised, in writing, to lend their weapon to guests on the premises who do not hold a certificate. The borrower will have to be in the presence of either the person who has lent the weapon or another certificate holder (authorised to lend a weapon) while they are in

possession of it and comply with the conditions attached to the firearm or shotgun certificate. The new clause will allow the weapon to be used for hunting animals, shooting game or vermin, or shooting at artificial targets.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kennedy of Southwark, Lord Paddock, Baroness Hamwee, Earl Attlee, Lord Harris of Haringey, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown and Lyn Brown, and placing a copy in the Library of the House and on the Bill page on gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan', with a small dot at the end.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford**