



Young People and Shooting

The Law at 1 May 2016 – The Firearms (NI) Order 2004

With an FAC

1. A person aged 16 or 17 who lives or works on a farm, may apply for an FAC to acquire and possess but not purchase an air gun, a shotgun or a .22 rimfire rifle for pest control or protection of livestock. [With parental consent and typically the owner of the firearm] **Article 7(2) refers.**
2. A person aged 16 or 17 may apply for an FAC to acquire and possess but not purchase an air gun or a shotgun for sporting purposes while under supervision of a person aged at least 21 who has held an FAC for at least 3 years for a firearm of that type. **Article 7(3) refers.**
3. In each case the airgun must be capable of discharging a projectile with a Kinetic Energy in excess of 1 Joule. **Schedule 1, Paragraph 9(2) refers.**

Without an FAC

4. A young person of any age and as a member of a firearms club may discharge a firearm in connection with drill or target shooting, in accordance with the club regulations. **Schedule 1, Paragraph 7 refers.**
5. A person from the age of 14 can use an airgun (capable of discharging a projectile with a Kinetic Energy in excess of 1 Joule) while under the supervision of someone aged at least 21. **Schedule 1, Paragraph 9(2)-(3) refers.**

Changes introduced through the Justice No. 2 Act 2016 [When Commenced]

6. A person aged 12 and over but under 16 may use a shotgun at a clay target club which is authorised by the Chief Constable. The young person may shoot clay targets and must be supervised by a person who is at least 21 and has held an FAC for a minimum of 5 years. The authorisation shall permit that young person to engage in clay target shooting or other such activity as prescribed. **Article 50A(1)-(2) and (5)-(6) refers.** Administration of the clay target clubs will mirror the existing Guidance on Northern Ireland Firearm Controls – **Article 49(7).**
7. Under 2. Above “or for the purpose of pest control” is added to “sporting purposes”. **Article 7(3)(b)(i) as amended refers.**
8. Without holding an FAC, a person aged 16 or 17 may borrow a shotgun from the occupier of private premises and use it on those premises in the occupier’s presence if they are supervised by someone who has attained the age of at least 21 and has held an FAC for at least 3 years. **Schedule 1. Paragraph 11(3) as amended refers.**
9. The age at which a person can purchase an airgun without a firearm certificate has been amended from 17 to 18.