



## **Medical Scheme FAQs**

### **1. Why has the new scheme been introduced?**

It is a response to recommendations for change submitted to the Minister from coroners, the Independent Police Complaints Commission and medical practitioners all of whom expressed concern about weaknesses in the existing system.

### **2. Why are BASC supporting the scheme?**

BASC welcomes the commitment of the Home Office to the development of a sensible and pragmatic solution which will both mitigate the concerns expressed by the IPCC, coroners and medical profession, enhance public safety and ensure better medical care for those who shoot. Furthermore, we consider this new process will take shooting a step closer to 10-year certificates.

### **3. How have the application forms changed?**

Very little has changed. The personal health and medical declaration is no longer in two parts. The question now asks you to declare whether you suffer from any relevant medical condition. It also asks you to give details of your current GP practice together with all previous practices you have been registered with during the past 10 years.

The notes have been substantially improved to give greater clarity. Importantly they advise you that your GP will be asked to place an encoded reminder on your record and to contact the police should you begin to suffer from any relevant condition. The GP is also asked to notify the police if there are any other concerns that might affect your safe possession of firearms.

### **4. What are the relevant medical conditions?**

They are –

- Acute Stress Reaction or an acute reaction to the stress caused by a trauma
- Suicidal thoughts or self-harm
- Depression or anxiety
- Dementia
- Mania, bipolar disorder or a psychotic illness
- A personality disorder
- A neurological condition: for example, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's or Huntington's diseases, or epilepsy
- Alcohol or drug related abuse
- Or any other condition, mental or physical, which might affect your safe possession of firearms. If you are in any doubt, you should consult your GP.

**5. Do I have to sign the form giving the police permission to contact my GP and/or specialist to obtain factual details relevant to my suitability?**

Yes. Failure to do so will result in your application being refused.

**6. If a medical report is required, who pays?**

- If you have declared a medical condition on the application form and the report is required as part of the application process, then you will be expected to pay. However, if further information is required by the police they may request and pay for the further report.
- If you have disclosed no relevant medical conditions but your GP, when approached, advises the police of concerns, then the fee for any subsequent report will be paid by you so long as it forms part of the application process. Again, if further information is required by the police they may request and pay for the further report.
- Following the issue of certificates the cost of medical reports will be met by the police

**7. Am I required to tell the police if I change my GP practice?**

The notes on the new form state that you should inform the police if you change your GP practice and provide details for the new practice. Nonetheless, it is not a legal requirement.

**8. Why am I being requested to do this?**

This is so that the police can ensure that the encoded reminder is placed on your medical record at your new practice. It also enables the police to approach your current GP should it ever be necessary.

**9. Do I have to notify the police if I seek medical advice or treatment for a relevant medical condition?**

The notes advise you that you are expected to notify the police in such circumstances. However, it is not a legal requirement.

**10. What happens once my certificate(s) is/are cancelled?**

The police will write to your GP and ask them to inactivate the encoded reminder.

**11. When will the new forms come into force?**

They will come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Old forms will still be accepted by the police until 31<sup>st</sup> May. If you submit an old form after this date it will be rejected and you will be required to re-submit your application utilising the new form.