



Firearms Licencing Support Information Sheet

(In Partnership with FirearmsLicensing.net)

Policy Owner: General Secretary
Policy Effective Date: May 2026
Review Date: May 2027

1. Policy Statement

The United Kingdom Practical Shooting Association (UKPSA) has entered a 12-month partnership with FirearmsLicensing.net (FL.Net) to provide enhanced firearms licensing support and revocation cover to its members. This service is designed to offer preventative education and proactive advocacy to resolve issues before they escalate to formal legal action. The service adopted is the "Guardian version," which offers broader legal support, advice, and advocacy compared to the previous revocation insurance policy that focused solely on refusal of grants and revocation. The board unanimously approved the expenditure for this one-year service, which includes one month of advocacy and eleven months of "Guardian" service. This is not a policy of insurance but member support services that includes Legal Representation for cases which meet the eligibility criteria.

2. Scope of Service (Provided by FirearmsLicensing.net)

The service aims to protect members from being disadvantaged by firearms licensing departments and includes:

- **Prevention and Education:** Stopping problems before they start via education, including access to an app and other comms.
- **Advocacy and Intervention:** Solving problems by advocating directly with police forces, engaging with them, and challenging adverse outcomes.
- **Addressing Issues Without Legal Appeal:** Challenging things that lack a formal legal right of appeal, such as rejections, voluntary surrenders, and particularly onerous conditions.
- **Legal Merit Assessment:** Providing an early assessment of the merits of a situation for cases where a formal legal right of appeal exists, including offering expert witness statements.
- **Club Support:** Support for affiliated clubs is permissible, as club affiliation is viewed as a type of membership. However, support for club-related issues will be drawn from the membership pot of 100 hours and must be carefully limited to avoid a disproportionate allocation of time. Such allocation of services will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



3. Member Eligibility and Restrictions

To ensure the service is used as an ongoing member benefit and to prevent exploitation of the cover by individuals who are already experiencing difficulties, the following restrictions apply:

- **Membership Duration:** Members must have been active UKPSA members for a minimum of **three (3) months** before they can access the full services provided by FirearmsLicensing.net. This restriction is designed to be assessed at the earliest possible stage. Members will not be eligible if they are suspended or under review by UKPSA.
- **No Known or Existing Disqualifying Circumstances:** The member must not be under investigation or subject to warning letter, suitability review or request to surrender firearms at time of joining UKPSA.
- **Referral Mechanism:** The service will be managed through a referral mechanism to confirm current membership status.
- **Disclosure:** On engaging services of FL.Net members must truthfully disclose any conviction, caution or pending investigation. Especially for; Violence, Domestic abuse, Harassment/stalking, Drug or alcohol-related offences or Weapons offence.
- **Disclosure:** On engaging services of FL.Net members must truthfully disclose any section or detention under the Mental Health Act, medical advice that they should not possess firearms or any ongoing treatment that may affect suitability.
- **Commercial Activities:** Other than support provided for Club Activities mentioned above commercial activity is not included in the services provided.

These services cover for the reasonable legal costs of appealing decisions relating to:

- The grant of a shotgun or firearm certificate
- The renewal of a shotgun or firearm certificate
- The revocation of a shotgun or firearm certificate
- Conditions imposed on a shotgun or firearm certificate

This cover applies only where the certificate is required for participation in UKPSA-recognised activities.

Cover does **not** extend to:

- Criminal defence
- Judicial review
- Civil disputes with clubs, landowners, or ranges
- Commercial firearms matters
- Crossbows or prohibited weapons

Reasonable Prospects Requirement

Cover is conditional upon the appeal being assessed as having reasonable prospects of success, defined as “a 51% or greater chance of achieving the desired outcome”. This condition applies throughout the process and in particular when new information is received.

FL.Net will appoint the legal representative for all covered matters.

This ensures:

- Consistency of approach
- Control of quality
- Cost-effective case management
- Use of practitioners with genuine firearms licensing expertise



Member Request for Alternative Representation

Members may request an alternative representative only where a genuine conflict of interest exists. Examples include:

- The appointed representative previously acted for another party in the same matter
- The representative has a professional conflict preventing them from acting
- The member is directly adverse to another FL.Net client in the same proceedings

Personal preference, personality clashes, or dissatisfaction with advice do not constitute a conflict of interest.

Specialist Counsel

Where a case requires barrister involvement, FL.Net will instruct from a hand-picked panel of barristers with:

- Demonstrable expertise in firearms licensing law
- Experience in Crown Court firearms appeals
- Familiarity with police licensing processes and statutory guidance
- A track record of successful certificate appeals

This ensures members receive representation from practitioners who genuinely understand the landscape - not generalist criminal or civil counsel.

Duty to Pursue Negotiated Resolution

Before commencing any formal appeal proceedings, members must engage in a **good-faith negotiation process** facilitated by FL.Net.

This includes:

- Allowing FL.Net to open dialogue with the licensing authority
- Considering any proposals or alternatives put forward
- Providing full and accurate information to support negotiation
- Refraining from issuing appeals or correspondence independently

This reflects the legal expectation that parties take reasonable steps to resolve disputes without litigation where possible.

Assessment of Negotiated Outcomes

If a negotiated solution is offered by the licensing authority, FL.Net will assess:

- The **legal merits** of the member's case
- The **likely outcome** of an appeal before the Crown Court
- The **costs, risks, and timescales** associated with litigation
- The **practical impact** of the proposed negotiated outcome.

Requirement to Accept Superior or Equivalent Offers

Where FL.Net determines that:

- The negotiated offer is **equal to or better than** the likely outcome of a court appeal, or
- The negotiated offer provides a **more favourable or more certain** result than litigation, the member is expected to **accept the negotiated resolution**.

This ensures that resources are used proportionately and that members do not pursue litigation that is unlikely to improve their position.



Consequences of Rejecting a Reasonable Offer

If a member **unreasonably rejects** a negotiated offer that FL.Net advises is superior or equivalent to the likely court outcome:

- Cover for further legal costs may be **withdrawn**, and
- The member may become **personally responsible** for any additional costs incurred thereafter.

4. Process for Accessing Support

Access to the service must be initiated by the member through the internal UKPSA system:

- **Primary Submission:** Members should use the existing online submission form: <https://www.ukpsa.org/firearms-licensing-form>.
- **Future Access (Member-Only Forum):** To ensure the code and sensitive information remain internal, the webmaster will be placing all links related to this service, including the application form, inside the UKPSA member-only website forum.
- **Discount Code Access (Forthcoming):** Once the bespoke member landing page is finalized, members will follow these steps:
 1. Follow the link (located on the member-only forum).
 2. Open the section to register.
 3. Fill in the form.
 4. Select “Essential Plus+” membership.
 5. Enter the discount code: **ukpsa2026guardian** (This code has 1,600 uses).

Note on Communications: The bespoke landing page is currently undergoing final tweaking and is not yet ready for membership use. The discount code and access procedure must be kept internal and should not be shared within clubs or groups outside of the official UKPSA member-only platform.

