

Number of adult offenders sentenced for firearms offences, by court type, 2007-2017¹

Guideline group	Legislation	Section	Offence	Court type	Number of adult offenders sentenced												
					2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Group 1	Firearms Act 1968	5(1)(a), (c), (ad), (ae)	Possess/purchase/acquire a prohibited weapon (automatic)/ammunition/ smooth-bore revolver/ rocket launcher/ mortar/ pump action rifle	MC	4	4	9	4	2	1	1	1	0	1	0		
				CC	242	335	348	301	165	50	46	26	43	68	54		
				Total	246	339	357	305	167	51	47	27	43	69	54		
		5(1)(b)	Possess/ purchase a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid / gas / electrical incapacitation device / thing	MC	639	625	637	610	531	431	410	313	303	289	204		
				CC	174	232	226	215	213	173	153	151	156	173	143		
				Total	813	857	863	825	744	604	563	464	459	462	347		
		5(1A)(a)	Possess/ purchase prohibited weapon (disguised firearm)	MC	0	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0		
				CC	3	1	1	0	3	24	52	86	138	190	138		
				Total	3	1	3	3	4	25	52	86	138	191	138		
		5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	MC	15	10	10	3	6	5	1	0	1	5	1		
				CC	7	22	23	12	57	121	124	161	192	218	220		
				Total	22	32	33	15	63	126	125	161	193	223	221		
Group 2	Firearms Act 1968	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	MC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
				CC	45	58	52	43	67	62	68	44	52	52	76		
				Total	46	58	53	43	67	62	68	44	52	52	76		
				Possess shotgun with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					CC	1	3	1	5	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	
					Total	1	3	1	5	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	
		Possess air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
			CC	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0			
			Total	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0			
		Group 3	Firearms Act 1968	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	MC	3	4	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	
						CC	286	315	246	264	238	216	206	205	229	259	251
						Total	289	319	249	264	239	216	206	206	230	261	254
Shotgun - possession with intent to cause fear of violence	MC					0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	CC					4	5	1	6	0	5	1	3	3	7	6	
	Total					4	6	1	6	0	5	1	3	3	7	6	
Air weapon - possession with intent to cause fear of violence	MC	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	CC	9	7	10	4	12	9	14	13	9	14	4					
	Total	9	7	12	4	12	9	14	13	9	14	4					
Group 4	Firearms Act 1968	19	Possess loaded/unloaded firearm and suitable ammunition in public place	MC	76	38	17	15	10	6	9	5	7	6			
				CC	20	15	14	8	11	6	7	5	7	6			
				Total	96	53	31	23	21	12	16	10	14	12	7		
				Possess a loaded shotgun in a public place	MC	16	12	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	
					CC	8	9	7	7	1	5	4	2	1	2	2	
					Total	24	21	11	7	3	6	4	2	1	2	2	
		Possess a loaded / unloaded air weapon in a public place	MC	340	243	218	178	123	117	95	87	96	62	68			
			CC	26	31	32	43	28	10	6	5	7	7	6			
			Total	366	274	250	221	151	127	101	92	103	69	74			
		Possess an imitation firearm in a public place	MC	0	32	70	60	61	55	43	53	55	60	85			
			CC	0	15	26	24	23	32	46	50	43	52	35			
			Total	0	47	96	84	84	87	89	103	98	112	120			

Group 5	Firearms Act 1968	1(1)(a),(b)	Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate; possess a shortened shotgun; possess a thing converted into a firearm	MC	97	87	81	74	68	60	50	58	31	49	29
				CC	98	98	110	123	110	99	84	83	78	88	82
				Total	195	185	191	197	178	159	134	141	109	137	111
Group 6	Firearms Act 1968 Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988	2(1)	Possess shotgun without a certificate	MC	36	36	27	29	19	23	21	22	14	16	22
				CC	15	19	12	25	19	12	9	15	22	15	19
				Total	51	55	39	54	38	35	30	37	36	31	41
Group 6	Firearms Act 1968 Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988	4(1) 6(1)	Shorten shotgun barrel - less than 60.96 cm / 24 ins Shorten smooth-bore gun barrel of section 1 firearm (Firearms Amendment Act 1988)	MC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				CC	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
				Total	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Group 7	Firearms Act 1968	4(3)	Convert thing / imitation firearm into a firearm	MC	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				CC	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
				Total	5	5	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Group 7	Firearms Act 1968	4A(1)	Possession of articles for conversion of imitation firearms ²	MC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				CC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group 8	Firearms Act 1968	5(2A)(a)	Manufacture weapon / ammunition specified in section 5(1) of the Firearms Act 1968	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Group 9	Firearms Act 1968	5(2A)(b)	Sell / transfer prohibited weapon / ammunition	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	19
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	19
Group 9	Firearms Act 1968	5(2A)(c)	Possess prohibited weapon / ammunition for sale / transfer	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Group 9	Firearms Act 1968	5(2A)(d)	Purchase / acquire prohibited weapon / ammunition for sale / transfer	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Group 10	Customs and Excise Management Act 1979	50(3), (4) and (5A)(a)	Import prohibited weapons / ammunition with intent to evade a prohibition / restriction	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	3
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9
Group 10	Customs and Excise Management Act 1979	170(1)(b) & (3) 170(2), (3) & (4A)(a)	Carry / remove / deposit etc. prohibited weapons / ammunition with intent to evade a prohibition / restriction / Knowingly concerned in fraudulent evasion	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	3
Group 2	Firearms Act 1968	17(1)	Make use / attempt to make use of a firearm/ imitation firearm with intent to resist arrest	MC	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
				CC	1	0	5	2	5	3	3	3	1	4	1
				Total	1	0	5	2	5	3	3	3	1	4	1
Group 2	Firearms Act 1968	17(2)	Possess firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon while committing Schedule 1 offence	MC	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
				CC	52	55	34	24	24	20	13	24	13	13	16
				Total	52	55	34	25	24	20	14	24	13	13	16
Group 11	Firearms Act 1968	18(1)	Have a firearm/ imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence/ resist arrest/ prevent the arrest of another	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
				CC	43	26	34	24	23	11	17	11	10	14	16
				Total	43	26	34	24	23	11	17	11	10	14	17
Group 11	Firearms Act 1968	21(1) & (4) 21(2) & (4) & Sch 6	Possess a firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon/ ammunition when prohibited for life/ five years	MC	54	34	43	33	41	29	27	26	21	24	20
				CC	48	55	68	62	48	45	35	27	28	36	28
				Total	102	89	111	95	89	74	62	53	49	60	48

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Notes

1) Information on sentence volumes has been provided for the firearms offences in tables 1 and 2 of the Council paper.

2) New offence under the Policing and Crime Act 2017; came into force 2 May 2018.

Sentence outcomes for adult offenders sentenced for offences under the Firearms Act 1968, 2017¹

Guideline group	Section	Offence	Absolute Discharge	Conditional Discharge	Fine	Community Order	Suspended Sentence	Immediate Custody	Otherwise dealt with ²	Total
Group 1	5(1)(a), (c), (ad), (ae)	Possess/purchase/acquire a prohibited weapon (automatic)/ammunition/ smooth-bore revolver/ rocket launcher/ mortar/ pump action rifle	0	0	0	0	6	48	0	54
	5(1)(b)	Possess/ purchase a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid / gas / electrical incapacitation device / thing	1	30	47	96	95	71	7	347
	5(1A)(a)	Possess/ purchase prohibited weapon (disguised firearm)	0	0	0	3	32	103	0	138
Group 2	5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	0	0	1	2	12	204	2	221
	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable an other to do so	0	0	0	0	0	72	5	77
Group 3	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	0	1	0	10	62	185	6	264
Group 4	19	Possess loaded/unloaded firearm and suitable ammunition/shotgun/ airweapon/ imitation firearm in public place	0	10	25	75	48	43	2	203
Group 5	1(1)(a),(b)	Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate; possess a shortened shotgun; possess a thing converted into a firearm	2	11	12	5	29	51	1	111
	2(1)	Possess shotgun without a certificate	0	8	9	1	9	13	1	41

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Guideline group	Section	Offence	Absolute Discharge	Conditional Discharge	Fine	Community Order	Suspended Sentence	Immediate Custody	Otherwise dealt with ²	Total
Group 1	5(1)(a), (c), (ad), (ae)	Possess/purchase/acquire a prohibited weapon (automatic)/ammunition/ smooth-bore revolver/ rocket launcher/ mortar/ pump action rifle	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	89%	0%	100%
	5(1)(b)	Possess/ purchase a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid / gas / electrical incapacitation device / thing	0%	9%	14%	28%	27%	20%	2%	100%
	5(1A)(a)	Possess/ purchase prohibited weapon (disguised firearm)	0%	0%	0%	2%	23%	75%	0%	100%
Group 2	5(1A)(c), (d), (e), (f), (g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	92%	1%	100%
	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable an other to do so	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	94%	6%	100%
Group 3	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	0%	0%	0%	4%	23%	70%	2%	100%
Group 4	19	Possess loaded/unloaded firearm and suitable ammunition/shotgun/ airweapon/ imitation firearm in public place	0%	5%	12%	37%	24%	21%	1%	100%
Group 5	1(1)(a),(b)	Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate; possess a shortened shotgun; possess a thing converted into a firearm	2%	10%	11%	5%	26%	46%	1%	100%
	2(1)	Possess shotgun without a certificate	0%	20%	22%	2%	22%	32%	2%	100%

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Notes

1) Information on sentence outcomes has been provided for the most common firearms offences.

2) Includes a number of orders, for example hospital orders, confiscation orders and compensation orders.

Average custodial sentence lengths (post guilty plea) for adult offenders sentenced to immediate custody for offences under the Firearms Act 1968, 2017¹

Guideline group	Section	Offence	Mean sentence length^{2,4}	Median sentence length^{3,4}
Group 1	5(1)(a), (c), (ad), (ae)	Possess/purchase/acquire a prohibited weapon (automatic)/ ammunition/ smooth-bore revolver/ rocket launcher/ mortar/ pump action rifle	6 years 6 months	6 years 5 months
	5(1)(b)	Possess/ purchase a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid / gas / electrical incapacitation device / thing	11 months	8 months
	5(1A)(a)	Possess/ purchase prohibited weapon (disguised firearm)	3 years 8 months	4 years
Group 2	5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	5 years 3 months	5 years
	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable an other to do so	11 years 2 months	12 years
Group 3	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	2 years 7 months	2 years
Group 4	19	Possess loaded/unloaded firearm and suitable ammunition/shotgun/ airweapon/ imitation firearm in public place	7 months	4 months
Group 5	1(1)(a),(b)	Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate; possess a shortened shotgun; possess a thing converted into a firearm	2 years 9 months	2 years
	2(1)	Possess shotgun without a certificate	2 years 5 months	2 years 3 months

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Notes

- 1) Information on ACSLs has been provided for the most common firearms offences.
- 2) The mean is calculated by taking the sum of all values and then dividing by the number of values.
- 3) The median is the value which lies in the middle of a set of numbers when those numbers are placed in ascending or descending order.
- 4) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Number of children and young people sentenced for firearms offences, by court type, 2007-2017¹, and number of adult offenders sentenced, 2017

Legislation	Section	Offence	Court type	Number of children and young people sentenced											Number of adults sentenced
				2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017
Firearms Act 1968	5(1)(a), (c), (ad), (ae)	Possess/purchase/acquire a prohibited weapon (automatic)/ammunition/ smooth-bore revolver/ rocket launcher/ mortar/ pump action rifle	MC	10	6	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
			CC	6	17	21	17	7	0	0	0	1	1	2	54
			Total	16	23	22	17	8	1	1	1	2	1	2	54
	5(1)(b)	Possess/ purchase a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid / gas / electrical incapacitation device / thing	MC	103	87	58	58	52	41	34	27	25	14	23	204
			CC	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	143
			Total	106	88	59	59	53	41	34	27	25	16	25	347
	5(1A)(a)	Possess/ purchase prohibited weapon (disguised firearm)	MC	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	3	4	0
			CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	4	9	138
			Total	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	3	7	13	138
	5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	MC	3	8	5	5	2	1	6	3	1	2	2	1
			CC	1	1	0	1	5	4	5	1	6	3	12	220
			Total	4	9	5	6	7	5	11	4	7	5	14	221
	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	MC	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			CC	0	2	2	5	4	6	2	2	1	0	1	76
			Total	1	4	3	5	4	6	2	2	1	0	1	76
	16	Possess shotgun with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			CC	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
			Total	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	16	Possess air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	MC	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	MC	71	51	26	33	29	23	22	14	18	17	17	3
			CC	8	9	9	6	4	8	8	6	2	4	2	251
			Total	79	60	35	39	33	31	30	20	20	21	19	254
	16A	Shotgun - possession with intent to cause fear of violence	MC	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
			CC	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
			Total	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	6
	16A	Air weapon - possession with intent to cause fear of violence	MC	18	18	6	4	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	0
CC			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	
Total			18	18	6	4	1	3	1	2	3	2	1	4	
19	Possess loaded/unloaded firearm and suitable ammunition in public place	MC	45	22	3	2	1	3	3	2	0	1	0	2	
		CC	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	
		Total	47	22	3	2	3	3	4	3	0	2	0	7	
19	Possess a loaded shotgun in a public place	MC	6	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
		CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	
		Total	6	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	
19	Possess a loaded / unloaded air weapon in a public place	MC	203	146	64	48	37	28	19	7	17	9	8	68	
		CC	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
		Total	203	147	64	48	38	28	19	7	17	9	8	74	
19	Possess an imitation firearm in a public place	MC	0	21	53	42	33	32	22	23	27	31	34	85	
		CC	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	0	35	
		Total	0	21	54	44	34	34	23	25	30	31	34	120	

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Note

1) Information on sentence volumes has been provided for the firearms offences in table 1 of the Council paper.

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