

Table 1: Number of adult offenders sentenced for offences under the Firearms Act 1968, by type of weapon, 2007-2017

Guideline group	Legislation	Section	Offence	Number of adult offenders sentenced												
				2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Group 5a (Maximum: 10 years)	Firearms Act 1968	16	Possess a firearm with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so ¹	-	-	-	-	52	49	42	31	45	50	73		
			Possess ammunition with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so ¹	-	-	-	-	2	1	0	1	1	1	0		
			Possess a shotgun with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	1	3	1	5	0	1	2	0	2	1	1		
			Possess an air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0		
			TOTAL SECTION 16 OFFENCES	47	63	53	48	69	64	70	44	54	53	77		
		17(1)	Make use / attempt to make use of a firearm/ imitation firearm with intent to resist arrest	1	0	5	2	5	3	3	3	1	4	1		
		17(2)	Possess firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon while committing Schedule 1 offence	52	55	34	24	24	20	13	24	13	13	16		
		18(1)	Have a firearm/ imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence/ resist arrest/ prevent the arrest of another	43	26	34	24	23	11	17	11	10	14	16		
		Group 5b (Maximum: 10 years)	Firearms Act 1968	16A	Possess a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence ¹	-	-	-	-	101	76	81	71	74	91	68
					Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence ¹	-	-	-	-	134	130	124	132	153	166	183
Possess a shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence	4				5	1	6	0	5	1	3	3	7	6		
Possess an air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	9				7	10	4	12	9	14	13	9	14	4		
TOTAL SECTION 16A OFFENCES	299				327	257	274	250	230	221	221	241	280	261		

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Note

1) Data for these specific offences not available prior to 2011.

Table 2: Sentence outcomes for adult offenders sentenced for offences under the Firearms Act 1968, 2017

Guideline group	Section	Offence	Absolute Discharge	Conditional Discharge	Fine	Community Order	Suspended Sentence	Immediate Custody	Otherwise dealt with ¹	Total
Group 5a (Maximum: Life)	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	0	0	0	0	0	72	5	77
	17(1)	Use of firearms to resist arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	17(2)	Possess firearm while committing a Schedule 1 offence	0	0	0	1	1	14	0	16
	18(1)	Carry firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit indictable offence	0	0	0	0	1	15	0	16
Group 5b (Maximum: 10 years)	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	0	1	0	9	61	184	6	261

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 ¹	Total
Group 5a (Maximum: Life)	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	94%	6%	100%
	17(1)	Use of firearms to resist arrest	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
	17(2)	Possess firearm while committing a Schedule 1 offence	0%	0%	0%	6%	6%	88%	0%	100%
	18(1)	Carry firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit indictable offence	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	94%	0%	100%
Group 5b (Maximum: 10 years)	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	0%	<0.5%	0%	3%	23%	70%	2%	100%

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Note

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

Table 3: Estimated average custodial sentence lengths (pre guilty plea) for adult offenders sentenced to immediate custody, and sentence ranges for offences under the Firearms Act 1968, 2017

Guideline group	Section	Offence	Mean sentence length ^{1,3}	Median sentence length ^{2,3}	Sentence range (using estimated pre GP sentence lengths)	
Group 5a (Maximum: Life)	16	Possess a firearm with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	12 years 5 months	12 years	1 year 8 months - 27 years' custody (and indeterminate)	
		Possess ammunition with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so ^{4,5}	11 years 6 months	12 years	5 years 6 months - 16 years 2 months' custody (and indeterminate)	
		Possess a shotgun with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so ^{4,5}	11 years 2 months	10 years	9 years - 16 years' custody	
		Possess an air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so ⁴	*	*	4 years 2 months - 7 years 6 months' custody	
	TOTAL SECTION 16 OFFENCES			12 years 5 months	12 years	1 year 8 months - 27 years' custody (and indeterminate)
	17(1)	Use of firearms to resist arrest ⁴	4 years 5 months	4 years 3 months	6 months - 10 years 8 months' custody (and indeterminate)	
17(2)	Possess firearm while committing a Schedule 1 offence	5 years 10 months	5 years 8 months	CO - 12 years' custody		
18(1)	Carry firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit indictable offence	8 years 8 months	7 years	SSO - 24 years' custody		
Group 5b (Maximum: 10 years)	16A	Possess a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	4 years 9 months	4 years 6 months	CO - 10 years' custody	
		Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	2 years 8 months	2 years 3 months	Discharge - 9 years 9 months' custody	
		Possess a shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence ⁴	5 years 4 months	6 years	SSO - 10 years' custody	
		Possess an air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence ⁴	3 years	3 years	SSO - 6 years 9 months' custody	
TOTAL SECTION 16A OFFENCES			3 years 4 months	2 years 6 months	Discharge - 10 years' custody	

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Notes

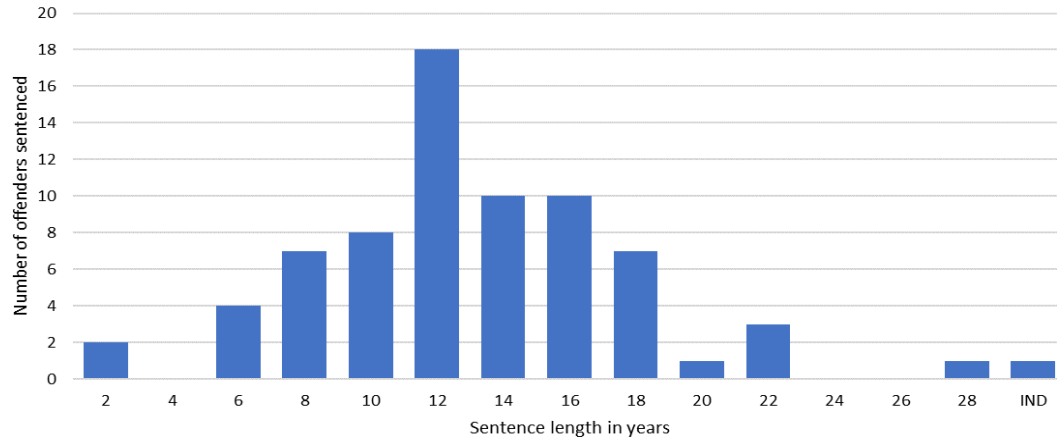
- 1) The mean is calculated by taking the sum of all values and then dividing by the number of values.
- 2) The median is the value which lies in the middle of a set of numbers when those numbers are placed in ascending or descending order.
- 3) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
- 4) The ACSLs and ranges shown for these offences cover the period 2011-2017, due to the very low number of offenders sentenced for these offences.
- 5) These figures should be treated with caution, due to the low number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for this offence.

* Figures not shown due to the very low number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for this offence.

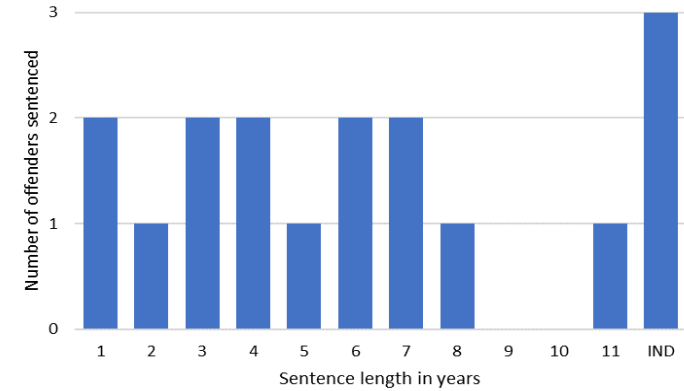
Figure 1: Estimated distribution of custodial sentence lengths for adult offenders sentenced to immediate custody for offences under the Firearms Act 1968, before any reduction for guilty plea

Group 5a (Maximum: Life)

Section 16 offences (total) - Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so, 2017



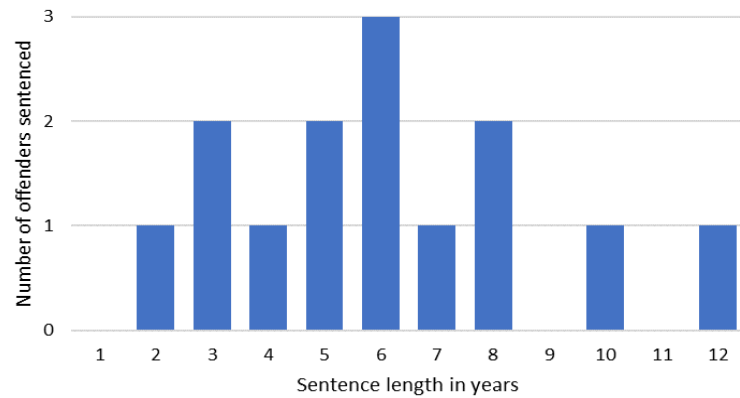
17(1) - Use of firearms to resist arrest, 2011-2017¹



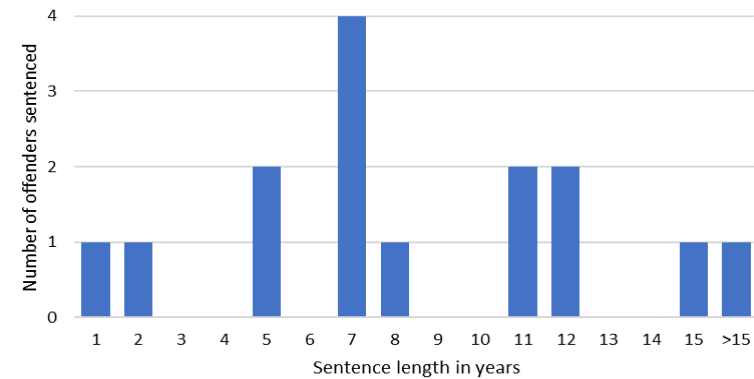
Note:

1) The data shown for section 17(1) covers the period 2011-2017, due to the low number of offenders sentenced.

17(2) - Possess firearm while committing a Schedule 1 offence, 2017

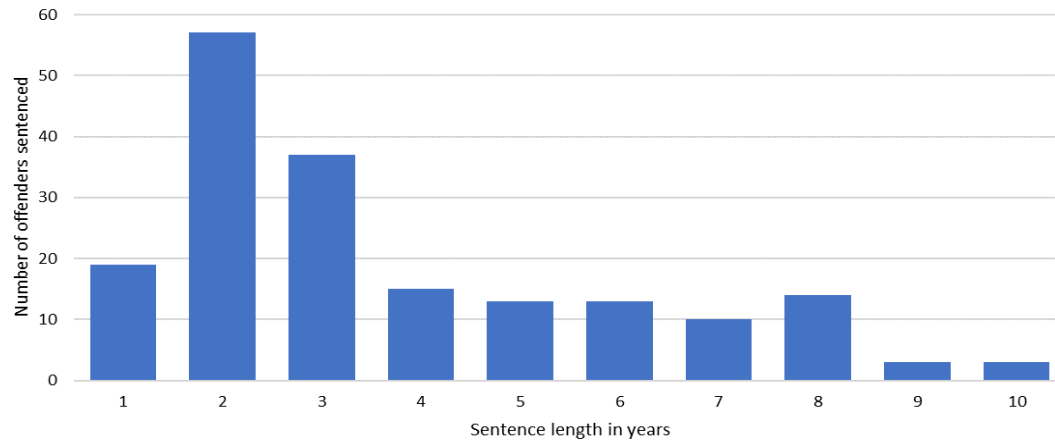


18(1) - Carry firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit indictable offence, 2017

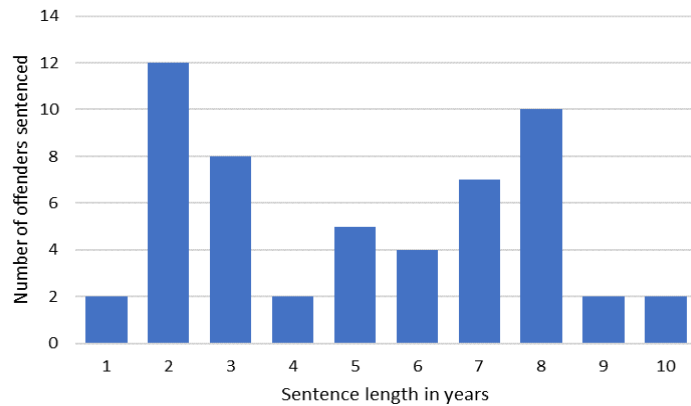


Group 5b (Maximum: 10 years)

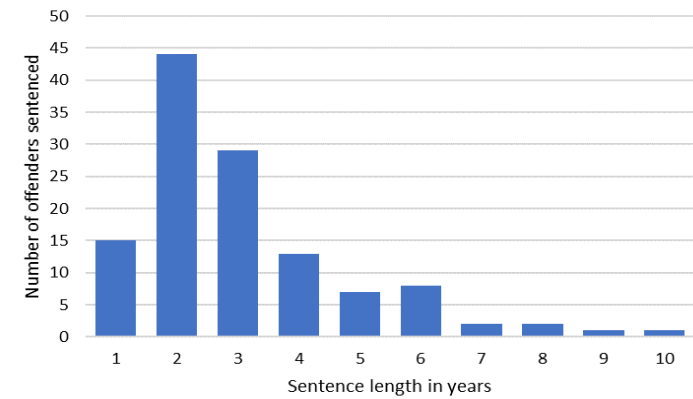
Section 16A (total) - Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence, 2017



16A - Possess a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, 2017



16A - Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, 2017



Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

Note:

Separate sentence length breakdowns for section 16A offences involving shotguns and air weapons have not been shown due to low volumes.

Blank page