



# FIREARMS SERVICES

At Forensic Access, our firearms consultants offer independent unbiased impartial advice on all firearms evidence to the courts in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and International parties. They can provide expert reviews on the following services: classification of weapons and ammunition, trigger pull, scene reconstruction, range of fire and cold case reviews.

## Classification of Weapons & Ammunition

Our experts function check and test fire firearms to establish if the kinetic energy of a fired projectile complies with the UK Firearms Act 1968, which was amended in 2017.

They identify all relevant component parts of a firearm and determine if that component could be fitted to, or classified as, a firearm or not. This requires the expert's knowledge of, and familiarity with, a variety of firearms.

For example, legislation has been updated to include the definition of an 'antique firearm' and lists weapons which can be considered antique due to being of an obsolete calibre, the lack of commercial availability of ammunition, design, and age. However, for the enthusiast who would like to possess a weapon for historical reasons with no intention of discharging it, advice should be sought from an expert who can assist with knowledge of the weapon and whether it has any historical relevance, in order to comply with legislation.

## Scene Reconstruction

Our experts provide valuable intelligence regarding the events that have occurred at a scene involving the discharge of a weapon. Scene reconstruction can involve many areas of firearms expertise, including the positions of fired components, the interpretation of wound ballistics, bullet trajectory analysis, the bullet impact site, additional areas of damage, the consideration of ricochet, the relative positions of shooter/victim, and understanding how the weapon works.

The pattern and angle of shot pellets can also assist in determining if a shot was directly aimed at an individual or whether it aligns with alternative scenario. Together, all this evidence can be reviewed to provide a full-context picture of events.

## Cold Case Reviews

These cases are more complex as the quality of available material is dependent on how well the original scene was recorded, along with the evidence recovered at the time of the event. With the development of new technologies, techniques may be available to examine evidence types that had not previously been explored.



## Trigger Pull

The interpretation of ballistic evidence can assist in determining if a shooting was a homicide, suicide, or accidental discharge. For example, establishing the amount of pressure applied to the trigger of a weapon to discharge it can be valuable in cases where a weapon may have been discharged accidentally or unintentionally. Consideration of how a particular firearm operates and whether that aligns with the evidence available is critical.

## Range of Fire

The interpretation of a strike mark, pattern of shot, or the presence of soot/powder deposition can be reviewed in conjunction

with the examination of the weapon. Reconstruction, which may involve range tests of the positions, orientation, and distance of the weapon, relative to the victim, can be provided to assist in the interpretation of this evidence.

## The Future of Firearms

With the evolution of 3D printing of firearms and component parts, Forensic Access can offer unbiased and impartial advice on these components and whether they can be used in a lethal barrelled weapon. Experts can review cases where charges are pressed against individuals to determine if they possess relevant components of a firearm.



**Here's what  
our clients  
have to say...**

"Thank you for your work in relation to the joint report, the whole team is very grateful. Thank you so much for your help and please pass on our thanks to your firearms expert."

Trainee Solicitor

**Criminal Defence Solicitors Firm in Bath**

## Contact our Casework Team

Our Casework Managers are a valuable resource for Solicitors and Legal Professionals.

You will have a single point of contact to manage all expert-related communication and administration. They manage all aspects of the case from the initial enquiry through to the delivery of the expert report. Our Casework Managers:

- Provide quotes from independent experts in line with LAA requirements.
- Handle case materials to ensure experts have the right materials at the right time.
- Provide regular updates at every stage of the case and ensure deadlines are met ahead of trial.
- Quality check reports to ensure the instruction is addressed and suitable for court.
- Ensure adherence to the highest standards of quality throughout every case.

**Please get in touch with our casework team to instruct a firearms expert.**

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