

## **Government proposal on amendments to the Firearms Act submitted to Parliament on 11 October 2018**

### **Key amendments made to the government proposal after the round of consultation**

- The licence requirement regarding loading devices having a high capacity does not apply to deactivated devices or to loading devices made for automatic firearm models, the manufacture of which began before 1946. In other words, the bulk of memorabilia and decorative items will not come under the scope of regulation.
- The reservist derogation has been reformulated to refer to the ability to be stationed instead of planned or actual stationing. References to maximum age limits have also been removed from the proposal. This means that the Defence Forces may support an application for a reservist firearm equipped with a loading device having a high capacity submitted by a person over 60 years of age.
- The age limit in the reservist derogation has been lowered from 20 to 18 years, and the activity requirement prior to the granting of a licence is now 12 months instead of 24 months. Proof of activity can be demonstrated in part through training completed at the National Defence Training Association as well as through other reservist activities, such as training completed in reservist organisations. In the version circulated for comments, the first licence granted on the reservist basis was for a fixed term, but in the amended version, the licence is, in principle, open-ended.
- Organisations (such as sports-shooting and reservist organisations) may be granted a licence for category A weapons, in compliance with the training derogation included in the Firearms Directive.
- The activity requirement regarding licences for long category A firearms, granted on the basis of the sports-shooting derogation, was reduced to 12 months from 24 months. The requirement for 24 months of practice before applying for a licence remains in force for small-calibre weapons.
- A notification of firearm lending must be submitted if the loan exceeds 30 days. In the version submitted for comments, this period was 10 days.
- The proposed amendment to the prohibition to fire a collector weapon was removed from the proposal, and the practice will remain unchanged, that is, the licensing authority may include a condition in the licence, prohibiting the firing of a collector weapon.