



Home Office

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Crime and Policing.

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Christopher Morris
HM Area Coroner, Manchester South.
Coroner's Court
1 Mount Tabor Street
Stockport
SK1 3AG

By email only

16 August 2021

Dear Mr Morris

Thank you for your letter of 10 June to the Home Secretary which enclosed your Regulation 28 Report, following the sad death of Mr Emiel Ariel Malinski who died on 2 November 2020 at Salford Royal Hospital as the result of a gunshot injury to the head. I am replying as the Minister of State for Crime and Policing.

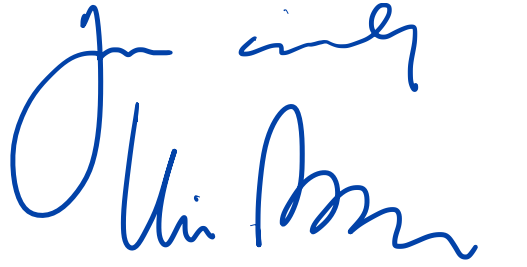
In your Report you raise concerns about the manner in which Mr Malinski was able to obtain the firearm he used while shooting, without supervision, at a miniature rifle range. You set out in your Report a number of requirements which do not currently apply to such rifle ranges.

The shooting range used by Mr Malinski at Weir Mill, Tameside, operates under the exemption from the firearms licensing legislation afforded by section 11(4) of the Firearms Act 1968, which applies to miniature rifle ranges and shooting galleries. While this exemption is widely used to introduce people to target shooting, we are already reviewing the exemption, because of the risks that it can pose to public safety, which this sad case demonstrates all too clearly.

We included proposals on tightening the controls that apply to miniature rifle ranges as part of a public consultation that we ran on a range of issues relating to the safety of firearms between 24 November 2020 and 16 February 2021. Although the consultation is now closed, it can still be accessed through the following link: [Firearms safety - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/firearms-safety). As you will see, the consultation sought views on introducing new controls on this type of rifle range, including specifying that the operator of the range must have a firearms licence which has been granted by police following safety and suitability checks.

The consultation attracted more than 12,000 responses which the Government is now carefully considering before deciding what further measures may be needed to tighten the controls on miniature rifle ranges, as well as in relation to the other issues considered in the consultation. We will use the outcomes of the consultation to explore the scope for restricting the use of licensing exemptions contained within the existing firearms legislation to prevent further deaths or injuries, while retaining some of the benefits of that arise from the exemption.

We will contact you again when we publish the outcomes of the consultation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', written in a cursive style.

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Crime and Policing