

Table 1: Number of adult offenders sentenced for firearms offences, by court type, 2007-2017

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)-(af), (c)	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
				<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>54</b>
		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
				<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>347</b>
		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
				<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>138</b>
		5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CC	7			22	23	12	57	121	124	161	192	218	220		
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>220</b>		
Group 2	Firearms Act 1968	1(1)	Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate <sup>1</sup>	MC	-	-	-	-	68	59	50	56	31	49	29
				CC	-	-	-	-	95	80	78	70	70	79	68
				<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>97</b>
		1(1)	Possess a shortened shotgun without a certificate; possess a thing converted into a firearm <sup>1</sup>	MC	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
				CC	-	-	-	-	13	12	6	13	8	6	14
				<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>
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		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41</b>		
Group 3	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
				<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>48</b>
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	2
				CC	20	15	14	8	11	6	7	5	7	6	5
				<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>
		19	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
				<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
		19	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
				<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>74</b>
		19	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		
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>47</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>120</b>		

			MC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Possess a firearm/ ammunition with intent to endanger life / enable another to do so	CC	45	58	52	43	67	62	68	44	52	52	76	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>76</b>	
Firearms Act 1968	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	
			CC	1	3	1	5	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
		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	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Group 5	Firearms Act 1968	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
				CC	286	315	246	264	238	216	206	205	229	259	251
				<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>251</b>
		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	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	
		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	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			CC	1	0	5	2	5	3	3	3	1	4	1	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	
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	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	
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	0	
			CC	43	26	34	24	23	11	17	11	10	14	16	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	
Group 6	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	
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
				<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
Group 7	Firearms Act 1968	5(2A)(b)	Sell / transfer prohibited weapon / ammunition	MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	19
				<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>
Group 7	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
				<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Group 7	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	
				CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
				<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Group 8	Firearms Act 1968	4A(1)	Possession of articles for conversion of imitation firearms <sup>2</sup>	MC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
				CC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

## Notes

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

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

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 <sup>1</sup>	Total
Group 1	5(1)(a)-(af), (c)	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
	5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	0	0	0	2	12	204	2	220
Group 2		Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate	2	11	12	5	27	39	1	97
	1(1)	Possess a shortened shotgun without a certificate; possess a thing converted into a firearm (aggravated form)	0	0	0	0	2	12	0	14
	2(1)	Possess shotgun without a certificate	0	8	9	1	9	13	1	41
Group 3	21	Possess a firearm when prohibited for life / five years due to previous conviction	0	4	6	5	9	24	0	48
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	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
	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	0	1	0	10	62	185	6	264
	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	1	0	1	15	0	17
Group 6	5(2A)(a)	Manufacture weapon / ammunition in section 5(1) <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Group 7	5(2A)(b)	Sell / transfer prohibited weapon	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	19
	5(2A)(c)	Possess prohibited weapon for sale / transfer	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
	5(2A)(d)	Purchase / acquire for sale / transfer	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Group 8	4A(1)	Possession of articles for conversion of imitation firearms <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 <sup>1</sup>	Total
Group 1	5(1)(a)-(af), (c)	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%
	5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	93%	1%	100%
Group 2		Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate	2%	11%	12%	5%	28%	40%	1%	100%
	1(1)	Possess a shortened shotgun without a certificate; possess a thing converted into a firearm (aggravated form)	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	86%	0%	100%
	2(1)	Possess shotgun without a certificate	0%	20%	22%	2%	22%	32%	2%	100%
Group 3	21	Possess a firearm when prohibited for life / five years due to previous conviction	0%	8%	13%	10%	19%	50%	0%	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	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%
	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	0%	0%	0%	4%	23%	70%	2%	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%	6%	0%	6%	88%	0%	100%
Group 6	5(2A)(a)	Manufacture weapon / ammunition in section 5(1) <sup>2</sup>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
Group 7	5(2A)(b)	Sell / transfer prohibited weapon	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
	5(2A)(c)	Possess prohibited weapon for sale / transfer	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
	5(2A)(d)	Purchase / acquire for sale / transfer	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
Group 8	4A(1)	Possession of articles for conversion of imitation firearms <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

## Notes

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

2) The data shown for this offence covers the year 2016, as no offenders were sentenced for this offence in 2017.

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

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

Guideline group	Section	Offence	Mean sentence length <sup>1,3</sup>	Median sentence length <sup>2,3</sup>
Group 1	5(1)(a)-(af), (c)	Possess/purchase/acquire a prohibited weapon (automatic)/ ammunition/ smooth-bore revolver/ rocket launcher/ mortar/ pump action rifle	7 years 9 months	8 years
	5(1)(b)	Possess/ purchase a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid / gas / electrical incapacitation device / thing	1 year 4 months	11 months
	5(1A)(a)	Possess/ purchase prohibited weapon (disguised firearm)	4 years 11 months	5 years
	5(1A)(b)-(g)	Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment	6 years 11 months	7 years 6 months
Group 2	1(1)	Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate Possess a shortened shotgun without a certificate; possess a thing converted into a firearm (aggravated form) <sup>4</sup>	3 years 1 month 2 years 5 months	3 years 1 year 11 months
	2(1)	Possess shotgun without a certificate <sup>4</sup>	2 years 10 months	2 years 3 months
Group 3	21	Possess a firearm when prohibited for life / five years due to previous conviction	1 year 8 months	1 year 3 months
Group 4	19	Possess loaded/unloaded firearm and suitable ammunition/shotgun/ airweapon/ imitation firearm in public place	10 months	6 months
Group 5	16	Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable an other to do so	12 years 5 months	12 years
	16A	Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence	3 years 4 months	2 years 6 months
	17(1)	Use of firearms to resist arrest <sup>4,5</sup>	4 years 7 months	4 years 8 months
	17(2)	Possess firearm while committing a Schedule 1 offence <sup>5</sup>	4 years 8 months	4 years
	18(1)	Carry firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit indictable offence <sup>5</sup>	8 years	7 years 3 months
Group 6	5(2A)(a)	Manufacture weapon / ammunition in section 5(1) <sup>4,6</sup>	17 years 9 months	20 years 3 months
Group 7 (combined)	5(2A)(b)-(d)	Sell / transfer prohibited weapon, Possess prohibited weapon for sale / transfer, Purchase / acquire for sale / transfer	12 years	9 years
Group 8	4A(1)	Possession of articles for conversion of imitation firearms <sup>7</sup>	-	-

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

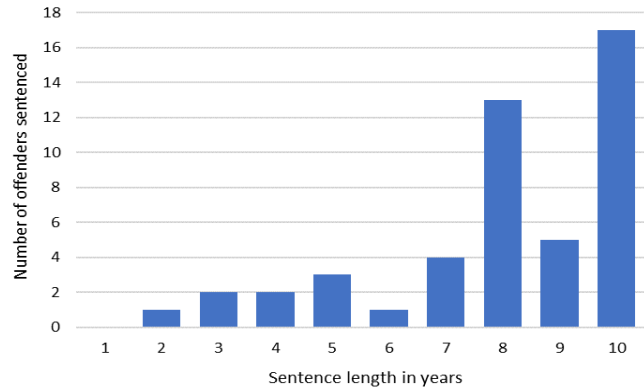
## Notes

- 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) These figures should be treated with caution, due to the low number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for this offence.
- 5) The ACSLs shown for this offence cover the period 2013-2017, due to the low number of offenders sentenced for these offences.
- 6) The ACSLs shown for this offence cover the year 2016, as no offenders were sentenced for this offence in 2017.
- 7) New offence under the Policing and Crime Act 2017; came into force 2 May 2018.

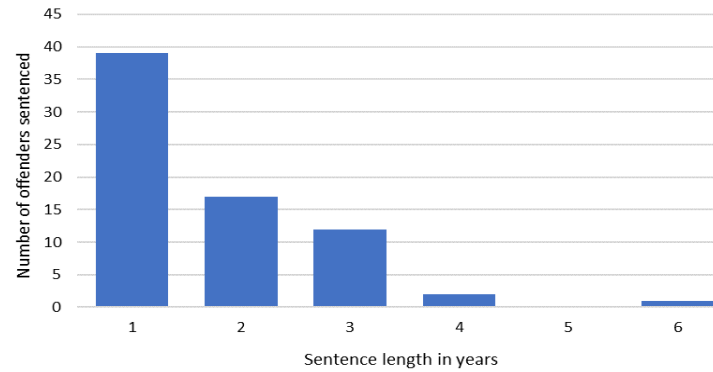
**Figure 1: Estimated distribution of custodial sentence lengths for adult offenders sentenced to immediate custody for offences under the Firearms Act 1968, before any reduction for guilty plea, 2017**

**Group 1**

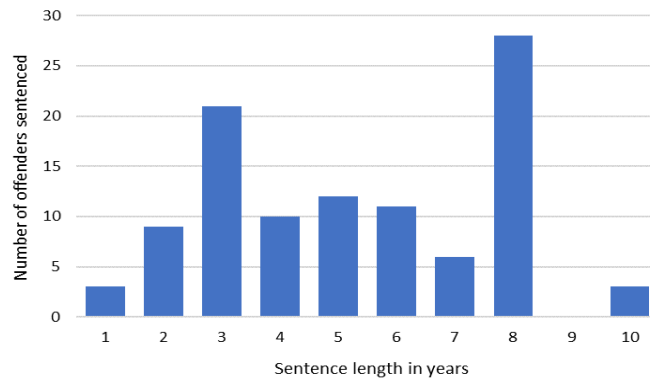
5(1)(a)-(af), (c) - Possess/purchase/acquire a prohibited weapon (automatic)/ammunition/ smooth-bore revolver/ rocket launcher/ mortar/ pump action rifle, 2017



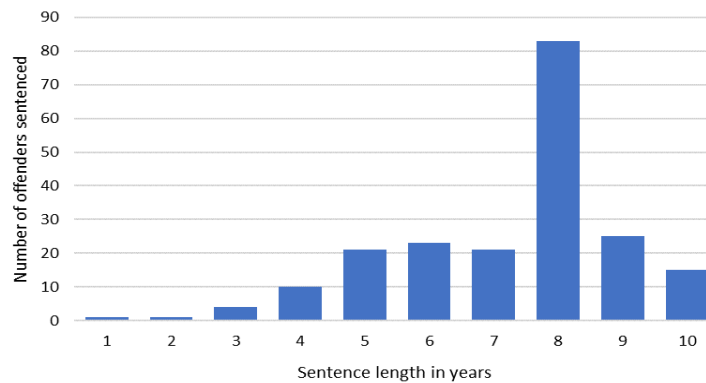
5(1)(b) - Possess/ purchase a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid / gas / electrical incapacitation device / thing, 2017



5(1A)(a) - Possess/ purchase prohibited weapon (disguised firearm), 2017

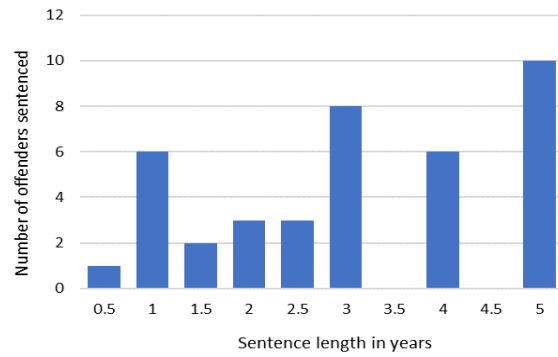


5(1A)(b)-(g) - Possess/ purchase/ sell or transfer military equipment, 2017

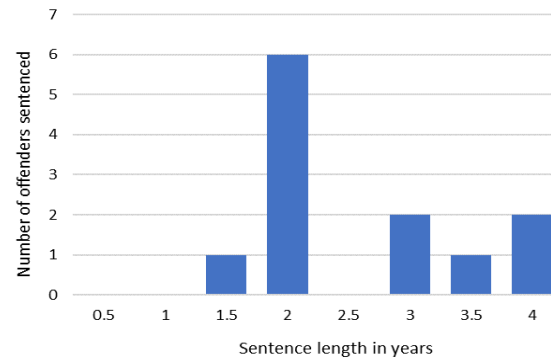


**Group 2**

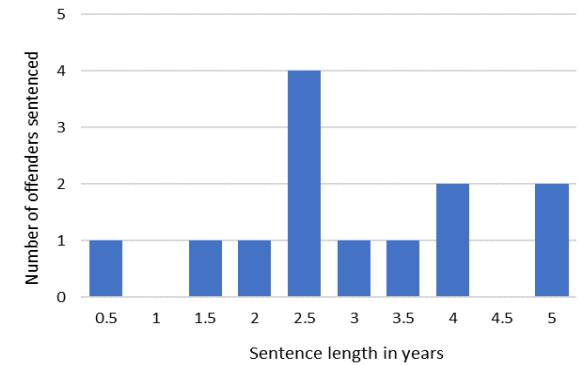
1(1) - Possess a firearm/ammunition without a certificate, 2017



1(1) (aggravated form) - Possess a shortened shotgun without a certificate; possess a thing converted into a firearm, 2017

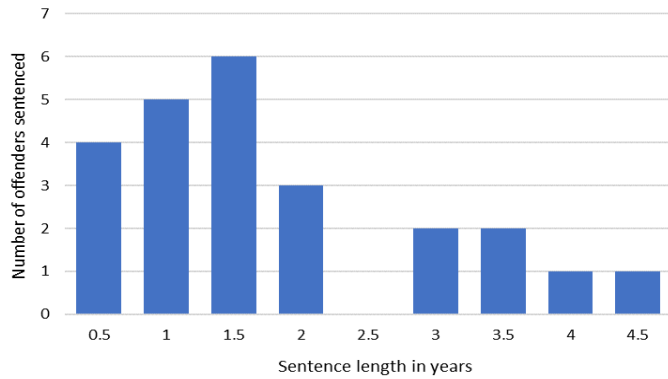


2(1) - Possess shotgun without a certificate, 2017



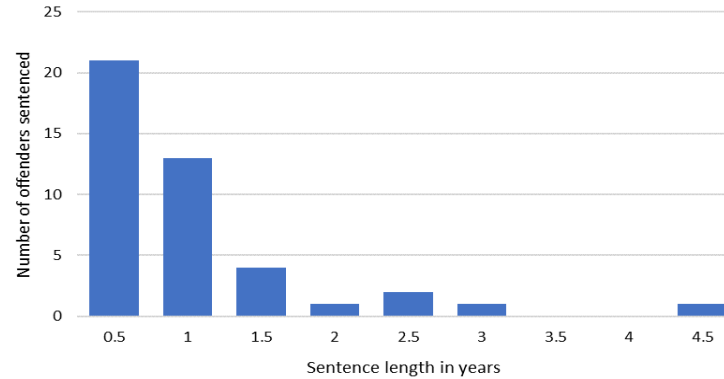
**Group 3**

21 - Possess a firearm when prohibited for life / five years due to previous conviction, 2017



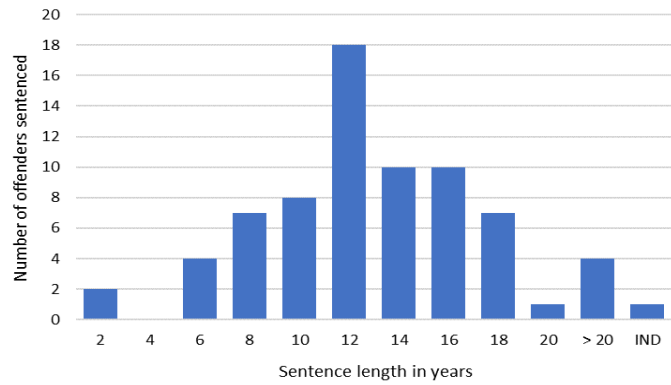
**Group 4**

19 - Possess loaded/unloaded firearm and suitable ammunition/shotgun/ airweapon/ imitation firearm in public place, 2017

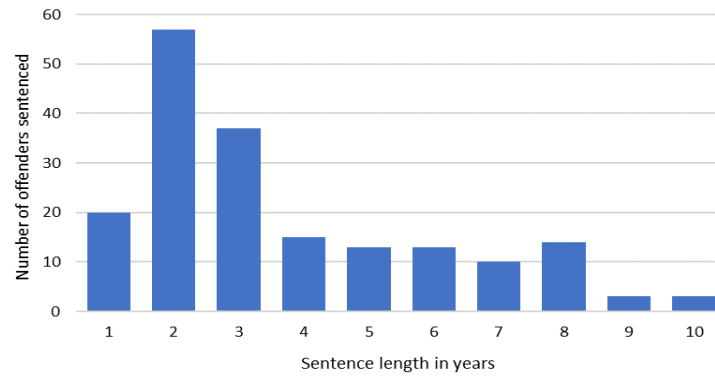


**Group 5**

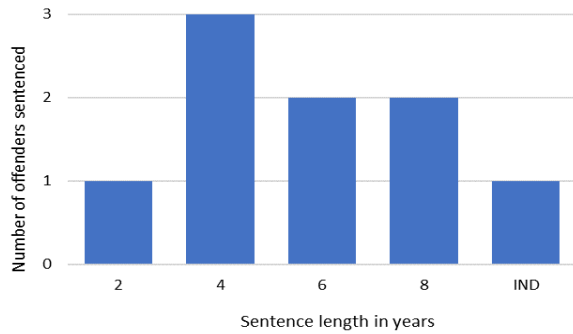
16 - Possess a firearm/ ammunition/shotgun/air weapon with intent to endanger life / enable an other to do so, 2017



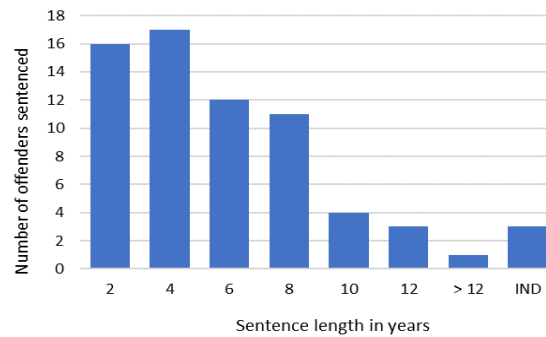
16A - Possess a firearm/ imitation firearm/ shotgun/ air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence, 2017



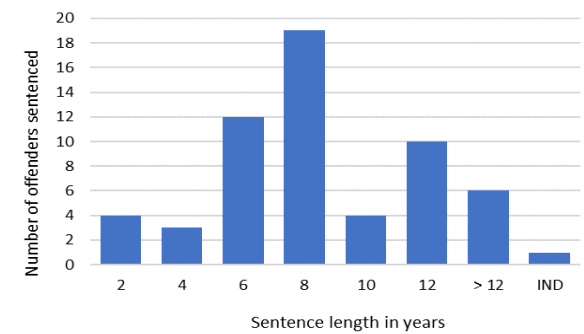
17(1) - Use of firearms to resist arrest, 2013-2017<sup>1</sup>



17(2) - Possess firearm while committing a Schedule 1 offence, 2013-2017<sup>1</sup>



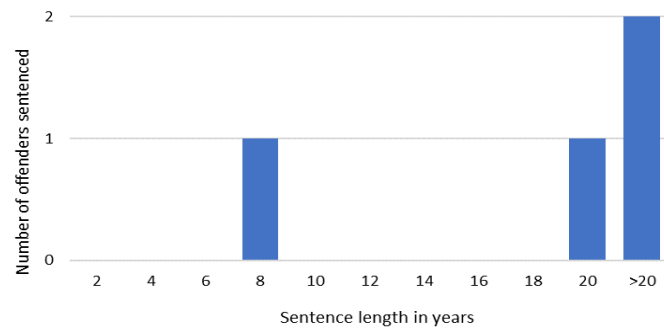
18(1) - Carry firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit indictable offence, 2013-2017<sup>1</sup>



Note:

1) The data shown for sections 17(1), 17(2) and 18(1) covers the period 2013-2017, due to the low number of offenders sentenced for these offences.



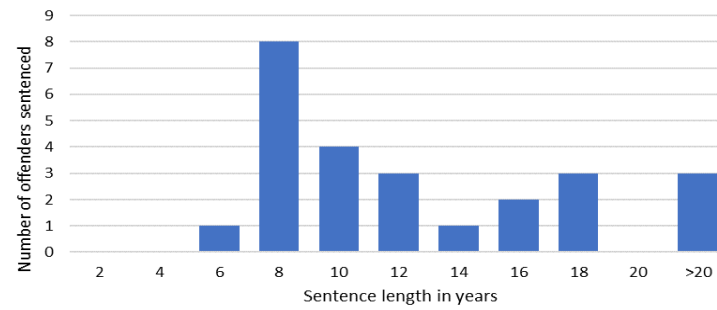
**Group 6**5(2A)(a) - Manufacture weapon / ammunition in section 5(1), 2016<sup>2</sup>**Note:**

2) The data shown for section 5(2A)(a) covers the year 2016, as no offenders were sentenced for this offence in 2017.

Source: Court Proceedings Database, Ministry of Justice

**Group 7 (combined)**

5(2A)(b)-(d) - Sell / transfer prohibited weapon, Possess prohibited weapon for sale / transfer, Purchase / acquire for sale / transfer, 2017



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