

**Submission  
No 213**

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE FIREARMS AND  
WEAPONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CRIMINAL  
USE) BILL 2020**

**Name:** Mr Paul McCarter

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INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE FIREARMS AND WEAPONS LEGISLATION (CRIMINAL USE)  
BILL 2020

Dear Committee Members,

In an effort to highlight the potential problems with the proposed amendments I will be using myself as an example.

I am in my 67<sup>th</sup> year and since my pre-teens have had an abiding interest in firearms and history. I have over the intervening years amassed a library of many hundreds of books specifically related to firearms, their history, design, manufacture and repair. Dozens of these have the word "gunsmithing" in the title and some containing detailed dimensioned drawings. I have spent more of my "pocket money" on these books not to mention the periodicals than I have ever spent on firearms themselves, Problem 1.

Problem 2 is connected with my attempts at further education. In my mid 50's I enrolled at Newcastle University to study Mechanical Engineering. It was here I discovered "computer aided design" (CAD), as former Graphic Artist before computers were common in the field of Graphics. The ability to create a design in three dimensions and check its operation is something I am loath to give up. Many of these designs are firearms related components associated with my 40 plus years as a multi-discipline target shooter.

Problem 3, my other interest is making things, anything from hard to get tractor parts to modifying the reloading equipment I use for my target ammunition and for a brief time as a Licenced employee of a firearms dealer the occasional small part (mainly missing screws). I am lucky to be able to afford a well equipped workshop with lathes and milling machines etc., consequently I have a workshop full of items that could be described as precursors to the manufacture of firearms.

My wife has always earned more than the near-do-well Graphic artist she married and since our first child in 1989 I have been a house husband and stayed at home to bring up our children, as a result my wife has financed most of what I have described. Sub-section 51J(2)(a-c) suggests that she is potentially open to prosecution. This 4<sup>th</sup> problem may well be the worst for me?

I understand the wording of any legislation is designed to reduce loopholes, but these amendments have the potential to create a noose that traps many unintended victims. My options appear to be, give up 50 years of my own history or apply for a Firearms Dealers licence when I have no wish to deal in firearms.

Yours truly confused,  
Paul A McCarter