

Guidance in relation to anti-shooters or shoot saboteurs

The following guidance is offered if confronted by anti-shooters to counteract any spurious allegations which may be leveled at our community whilst participating in legitimate field sports activities.

1. Ensure that you have the legal right to be at that location and are taking part in a legitimate field sports activity, ideally with written permission from the landowner or occupier of shooting rights.
2. Always go in pairs if you are going to a location where there is a likelihood of being confronted by anti-shooters or shoot saboteurs. This provides corroboration for your actions and the potential actions of those who may wish to stop you carrying out a lawful activity.
3. Ensure that you have a fully charged mobile phone with video and sound recording capability.
4. Always take a gun slip with you.
5. If confronted by anti-shooting activists or anyone suspected of being one:
 - Immediately they arrive on scene ask your friend to commence videoing them standing behind you in order that you are in the video frame.
 - In video recording view, calmly and carefully unload the gun(s) and place into slip(s).
 - Do not engage with the persons under any circumstances; do not talk to them, do not touch them, do not gesture to them. Always maintain appropriate distance and moral high ground.
 - Turn your back on the activist(s), if they move around to face you turn your back on them again, your friend should attempt to include this in the video. If they jump around you that is good evidence to support a *Prima Facie* case of a public order offence.
 - Walk away from that location, continue to video you and the activists, if they follow you continue to record them. It is important to have a record of what is said and by whom.
 - Maintain silence and again do not engage with the activists under any circumstances.
6. If you have complied with **ALL** the above, it is suggested that you take the video evidence to your local Police Station and lodge a complaint that you were '**placed in a state of fear and alarm**' by the conduct of the Activists. The police should take statements from the witnesses and should take the relevant evidence. This will require them downloading any video evidence.
7. The police may decide to deal with the matter in several ways. That is an operational decision for the police. However, key to the decision-making process is the availability of evidence.
8. It is essential that if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of having to deal with people who wish to disrupt your lawful activities that you remain calm, in control of yourself and do not rise to the provocation you face. Remember, how you react will likely also be recorded by the activists; they want you to rise to the bait and the consequences may be broadcast on social media and used as evidence against you.
9. This guidance may not always result in success, however should you be unhappy with the initial police response take the matter up with a more senior officer. It is always best to carry out this course of action in writing. Remember to note any Police Reference Number you are given.
10. If in doubt or you require any further guidance, please contact your shooting representative body as soon as possible.