

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT FORM SAMPLE 1
(vaguely based on a real incident)

DATE: 29 April 1990

I am a firearm certificate holder in a county constabulary area with an open ticket for seven rifles for pest and vermin control, deer stalking and big game hunting in Africa.

On 23rd January 1990, I spotted a magpie in my back garden, just too far distant for a confident shot with my air rifle, so I used my .22 rimfire, getting the bird with my second shot.

After that I thought no more about it, replaced the rifle in security and went about my daily grind. On the 28th January, two policemen (names and numbers redacted) called at my house and asked if, perchance, I'd fired my .22 rifle in the garden in a northerly direction on the 23rd. I admitted that I had, pointing out that my open ticket allowed me to shoot anywhere I deemed safe.

They said that they could prove empirically that it was not a safe shot, as they had a .22 lead bullet stuck in a sealed unit of a double glazed window of a house just over a mile from mine.

We went into the garden and I showed them the tree stump on which the magpie had been standing when shot. There was no mark to suggest a ricochet from that stump, but I admitted firing twice and thus it was possible that the first shot had bounced out of the garden. They said that they could match the rifling in my .22 to the recovered bullet, or not, as the case may be, and seized the rifle and my firearm certificate.

I heard nothing more for six weeks. I was asked to attend the local police station on the 17th March where a police inspector (name redacted) told me that the recovered bullet matched my rifle, but that he had decided not to proceed with the matter as criminal damage. I offered to pay for the replacement sealed unit and he refused to give me details of the person whose property had been damaged. He said that he could not return my rifle until the chief constable had made a decision about my firearm certificate.

Another four weeks went by and then my firearm certificate came through the post. It was a newly printed one, so I had to sign it in the box. The only change made to it was that the .22 rifle could only be used on land deemed suitable by the chief constable and a short note advising me that my garden was not deemed suitable.

I telephoned the police station to ask about collecting my rifle and they can't find it. No claim has been made against me for the damage as yet.