# Armed police intervene as man with crossbow disrupts Glasgow hospital amid calls for stricter UK regulations



Armed police were deployed to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow following a concerning incident involving a 29-year-old man who entered the premises wielding a crossbow. The event unfolded around 6:30am on Friday, prompting immediate action from specialist firearms officers. Fortunately, the weapon was not discharged, and there were no injuries reported. The man has since been arrested, and police investigations are ongoing.

In response to the incident, the hospital’s atrium was closed temporarily, and traffic was diverted around the area; however, services within the hospital continued uninterrupted. A representative from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde confirmed their cooperation with police, thanking their security teams for managing the situation effectively prior to the arrival of law enforcement. Inspector Alyssa Fullelove-McCann sought to alleviate public concerns, stating that the incident was being treated as isolated and that there was no ongoing risk to the public.

This incident raises wider questions regarding crossbow regulations within the UK, particularly as the Crossbows Act 1987 permits the purchase of these weapons without registration or a license for individuals aged 18 and over. It is illegal for anyone under 18 to own or buy a crossbow, and those under 21 cannot shoot one unless supervised. There are further stipulations that restrict shooting in public spaces without necessary permissions, reflecting a cautious approach to the escalating concerns surrounding crossbow usage.

The Home Office has recently acknowledged a growing impetus for stricter controls on crossbows, particularly after a series of related incidents. In July 2024, the department initiated a review to assess the existing regulations, although no significant changes have yet been implemented. Current proposals aimed at enhancing age verification controls for online sales were announced last month, indicating a conscientious effort to bolster public safety amid ongoing scrutiny.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation has noted that while crossbows are intended for target shooting rather than hunting—prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981—there remains an apparent lack of stringent regulation. As incidents like this highlight the potential risks associated with crossbows in public settings, calls for reform may gain momentum, prompting lawmakers to consider the necessity of tighter regulations to safeguard the public. The conversation around crossbows, once more relegated to niche interests, is increasingly at the forefront of public safety discussions.

The events in Glasgow spotlight the delicate balance between personal freedoms regarding ownership and public safety, a juxtaposition that is unlikely to dissipate as debates over the efficacy of existing laws continue.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/23/armed-police-called-to-glasgow-hospital-after-man-enters-with-crossbow), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/23/armed-police-called-to-glasgow-hospital-after-man-enters-with-crossbow)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/23/armed-police-called-to-glasgow-hospital-after-man-enters-with-crossbow), [[5]](https://basc.org.uk/firearms/crossbows/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c10ljqgrvyeo), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/10/home-office-opened-review-of-crossbow-controls-this-year)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/10/home-office-opened-review-of-crossbow-controls-this-year), [[6]](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1987/32/data.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://basc.org.uk/firearms/crossbows/), [[7]](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/how-is-crossbow-use-and-possession-regulated/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/23/armed-police-called-to-glasgow-hospital-after-man-enters-with-crossbow> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/23/armed-police-called-to-glasgow-hospital-after-man-enters-with-crossbow> - Armed police responded to an incident at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow on May 23, 2025, after a 29-year-old man entered the atrium carrying a crossbow. The weapon was not discharged, and no injuries were reported. The hospital's atrium was briefly closed, and traffic was diverted, but services remained unaffected. The man was arrested, and investigations are ongoing. Police reassured the public that the incident was isolated and posed no ongoing risk.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c10ljqgrvyeo> - Under the Crossbows Act 1987, it is legal to purchase a crossbow in England, Scotland, and Wales without registration or a license. However, individuals under 18 are prohibited from owning or buying one, and those under 21 cannot shoot one unless supervised by an adult. Lending or renting a crossbow to others is illegal, as is shooting in public spaces or private areas without permission. Crossbows with a draw weight of 1.4kg or more are regulated under this act.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/10/home-office-opened-review-of-crossbow-controls-this-year> - In July 2024, following a series of incidents involving crossbows, the Home Office initiated a review to assess the need for stricter regulations. Despite the review, no significant changes have been implemented. The current legislation, the Crossbows Act 1987, prohibits the sale or hire of crossbows to individuals under 18 and restricts their use in public spaces without reasonable excuse. The government continues to monitor the situation and considers further legislative measures as necessary.
5. <https://basc.org.uk/firearms/crossbows/> - The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) provides guidance on crossbow ownership in the UK. Crossbows are legal for individuals aged 18 and over, with no requirement for registration or licensing. However, it is illegal for those under 18 to purchase or possess a crossbow. The BASC emphasizes that crossbows are intended solely for target shooting and not for hunting, as using them for hunting is prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
6. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1987/32/data.html> - The Crossbows Act 1987 outlines the legal framework for crossbow ownership in the UK. It makes it an offence to sell or hire a crossbow to individuals under 18 and prohibits those under 18 from purchasing or possessing a crossbow unless supervised by someone aged 21 or over. The Act also grants police the authority to search individuals suspected of unlawful possession of a crossbow. Violations can result in fines or imprisonment, depending on the offence.
7. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/how-is-crossbow-use-and-possession-regulated/> - The UK Parliament's Commons Library provides an overview of crossbow regulations. The Crossbows Act 1987 controls the sale, hire, and possession of crossbows by individuals under 18. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 prohibits hunting with crossbows, and the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 makes it an offence to carry offensive weapons, including crossbows, in public without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. The Commons Library also discusses calls for stricter regulations and potential legislative changes.