

Letter to the editor

Published in The Melbourne Age November 4, 2002

Kate Stewart, Letters 1/11/02, claims that the effect on the violent crime rate of unfettered access to guns has never been studied. One wonders where she has been hiding all this time. The subject has been done to death.

In any case there is one particular example that cannot be lightly brushed aside. The UK banned the civilian ownership of handguns some years ago and the government at the time smugly announced that handguns had been removed from the streets of Great Britain.

Figures tabled in the House of Lords indicate that handgun related crime grew by 30% in 1999-2000 compared to the previous 12 months. In the following year a further increase of 9% for handgun offences. How can this be since handguns were removed from the streets of Britain? And how does Ms Stewart explain this?

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