

Police Found Toddler Playing Close To Pistol

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A TODDLER was found playing within feet of a loaded handgun when police raided a city flat, it has emerged.

The self-loading pistol, which had been converted to fire live ammunition, was found in a small Gucci bag on the floor only a few paces away from where the two-year-old was playing in the flat's bedroom.

The owner of the gun, Leroy McCalla, 24, of Landmark Place, Churchill Way, Cardiff, has been jailed for 11 years for possessing the gun and live ammunition.

He was one of two city men given significant sentences at Cardiff Crown Court last week for firearms offences and South Wales Police issued a statement saying the force was "committed to stemming the flow of gun crime" into the area.

Detective Inspector Chris Mullane from Cardiff Central CID said: "These sentences send out a strong message that guns, and those associated with gun crime will not be tolerated in Cardiff.

"South Wales Police is committed to stemming the flow of gun crime into our area. If you are caught in possession of an illegal firearm you can expect to go to prison for a very long time."

The Landmark Place flat was raided on Friday, April 20, by drugs squad officers investigating McCalla, who is originally from Peckham, south-east London.

The gun officers found was a BBM Bruni Gap, a blank cartridge self-loading pistol which had been converted to fire live 9mm ammunition and was loaded with live ammunition in the chamber and in a magazine.

Tests revealed the gun had previously been fired twice and forensic examination found McCalla's blood on a glove in the same bag.

Although McCalla denied the offence, he was convicted at trial and sentenced to seven years for possessing the firearm and four years to run alongside for the ammunition.