

Debate Pack

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Debate on the sale and use of fireworks

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Summary

There will be a debate on e-petition [639319](#) relating to the sale and use of fireworks on 9 December 2024 at 16:30 in Westminster Hall, led by Robbie Moore MP.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

There have been calls for reforms to fireworks regulation due to a range of concerns including noise, misuse, anti-social behaviour, distress to animals and vulnerable persons, and environmental impact.¹

In England, Wales, and Scotland, the sale of fireworks in shops is strictly limited to seasonal periods unless a retailer is licensed.² Fireworks are also categorised according to their net explosive content, discharge safety distances, and noise level. Category F1 fireworks present a low hazard and are intended for use in confined areas, they must not be sold to anyone under the age of 16. Categories F2 and F3 fireworks present a low to medium hazard and are intended for outdoor use, they are on general sale to the public but must not be sold to anyone under 18. Category F4 fireworks present a high hazard and can only be supplied to persons with specialist knowledge (i.e. pyrotechnicians). Category F3 fireworks are the loudest and most powerful fireworks available for public use.³ Category F3 fireworks must not have noise levels that exceed 120 decibels.⁴

Calls and petitions for reform include restricting the sale of fireworks to licenced retailers all year round, banning all or some categories of fireworks, and revising the 120 decibels noise level threshold.⁵

According to a [2021 report](#) (PDF) by the [Office of Product Safety and Standards](#) (OPSS), while there was limited public support for an outright ban on organised public fireworks displays (just 11%), there was more public support (63%) for limiting the sale of fireworks to specialist shops.⁶

1.2 Legislation

Product safety and the sale of fireworks is reserved to Westminster, but how fireworks are used (i.e. when and where they can be discharged) is a devolved

¹ BBC News, '[Fresh campaigner hope over anti-social fireworks](#)', accessed 28 November 2024

² Regulation 9 of the Fireworks Regulation 2004. Fireworks can be sold by unlicensed traders for the following limited periods: Chinese New Year and the preceding three days, Diwali and the following three days, Bonfire Night celebrations (15 October to 10 November), New Year celebrations (26 to 31 December).

³ Category F3 fireworks are consumer display fireworks (i.e., fireworks sold and used by the public)

⁴ Regulation 8 of the Fireworks Regulation 2004

⁵ BBC News, '[Fresh campaigner hope over anti-social fireworks](#)', accessed 28 November 2024

⁶ OPSS, '[Consumer behaviours and attitudes to fireworks](#)', April 2021

matter. There is a Library briefing [Regulation of fireworks](#) (PDF) which provides background to the legislation in this debate.

England and Wales

The sale and use of fireworks in England and Wales are governed primarily by the [Fireworks Regulations 2004](#) made under the [Fireworks Act 2003](#). The regulations make certain provisions aimed at minimising risks posed by the use of fireworks on people, animals, and property. Key provisions include:

- Regulation 4, which prohibits persons under 18 from possessing an adult firework (categories F2 and F3 fireworks) in a public place.
- Regulation 5, which prohibits persons of any age from possessing a category 4 firework.
- Regulation 7, which prohibits persons from using adult fireworks (F2 and F3) during night hours (between 11pm and 7 am). Statutory exceptions allow their use until 1 am on the nights of Chinese New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve and until midnight on 5th November.⁷
- Regulation 8, which prohibits the supply, purchase or possession of category 3 fireworks whose noise levels exceed 120 decibels.
- Regulation 9, which requires suppliers of adult fireworks to hold a licence, except at certain times of year. Local authorities are responsible for granting licences. Fireworks can be sold by unlicensed traders for the following limited periods: Chinese New Year and the preceding three days, Diwali and the following three days, Bonfire Night celebrations (15 October to 10 November), New Year celebrations (26 to 31 December).
- Regulation 10, which requires suppliers to provide prescribed information to persons to whom they supply fireworks (or expose for supply).
- Regulation 11, which requires importers of fireworks to give information about themselves, the storage and onward supply of such fireworks to the Customs and Excise Commissioners.

Using fireworks illegally can result in prosecution and a fine of up to £5,000 and/or a prison sentence of up to 6 months. An on-the-spot fine of £90 may also be levied. Also, under the [Policing and Crime Act 2017](#), it is an offence to possess a pyrotechnic article (for example, a firework, flare, or smoke bomb) at a qualifying musical event.⁸

The penalty for committing an offence of supplying a category F2 or F3 firework to any person under 18 years or supplying a category F1 firework to

⁷ There is also an exception in the case of local authority employees for the purposes of local authority fireworks displays, national public celebrations or national commemorative events

⁸ Section 134

any person under 16 years, is a fine of up to £5,000 and up to 6 months' imprisonment.

Local authority Trading Standards officers are responsible for enforcing regulations on consumer safety and age of purchase.⁹

Scotland

The Fireworks Regulation 2004 also apply to Scotland with the exception of regulation 7 relating to curfews, which is covered by the [Fireworks \(Scotland\) Regulations 2004](#) as amended by the [Fireworks \(Scotland\) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2021](#).

Under the [Fireworks \(Scotland\) Regulations 2004](#), the times of day fireworks can be used by the general public is between 6pm and 11pm, with the exception of 5 November (when they can be used from 6pm until midnight), Hogmanay, the night of Chinese New Year and the night of Diwali (when they can be used from 6pm until 1am). The regulations also restrict the times of day fireworks can be supplied to the general public to during the daytime hours of 7am and 6pm, alongside existing requirements on retailers around sale and storage licences. The quantity of fireworks that can be supplied to the general public is limited to 5kg at any one time.

The Scottish Government has [published guidance on the 2021 Regulations](#).¹⁰

The most significant new piece of legislation affecting fireworks regulation in Scotland is the [Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#). However, some parts of the act are yet to come into force. Key parts of the act that are in force include:

- Part 3 which deals with the supply of fireworks to persons under the age 18. The act creates a new offence of providing fireworks, or other pyrotechnic articles, to a person under the age of 18. The penalty is a £5,000 fine, six-months imprisonment, or both. There are exemptions for the non-retail supply of appropriate pyrotechnic articles in certain limited circumstances such as making safety flares available to persons under the age of 18.
- Part 4 which grants local authorities the power to designate firework control zones. Prior to designating an area as a firework control zone, the local authority must publish and consult on its plans to do so. Where a decision is made to proceed with a proposal, the local authority must publish a document containing this decision at least 60 days before the day on which the proposal is to have effect.

⁹ [Pyrotechnic Articles \(Safety\) Regulations 2015](#) and the [Fireworks Regulations 2004](#) (PDF)

¹⁰ Safer Communities Directorate, [The Fireworks \(Scotland\) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2021: information on the use of fireworks](#), 24 June 2021

- Part 5 which makes it an offence to possess a pyrotechnic article in a public place or while in a [designated venue or at a designated event](#), for instance, a sports ground.
- Part 6 which introduces an aggravation of offences against emergency workers where a firework or pyrotechnic article is used. Attacks on emergency workers using fireworks or pyrotechnics are aggravating factors that can be taken into account when courts sentence offenders.

Some parts of the act are not yet in force. These include:

- Part 2 which introduces a fireworks licensing system with mandatory safety training for persons wishing to purchase categories F2 and F3 fireworks. In a [letter to the Criminal Justice Committee of 23 February 2024](#) (PDF), the Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown MSP, advised the Scottish Government would be extending the timeframe for implementing this part of the Act until 2026 due to “a particularly difficult budget”.¹¹
- Sections of Part 3 which restrict the days on which fireworks can be sold and used. In a [letter to the Criminal Justice Committee of 14 February 2023](#) (PDF), Elena Whitham MSP, the then Minister for Community Safety, advised that the implementation of this section of the Act “will be paused to a future financial year”. In a further [letter to the Committee of 22 March 2023](#) (PDF), she advised that “due to the evolving turbulent economic environment, it is not yet possible to confirm in which financial year the restrictions on supply and use of fireworks will commence”.¹²

Northern Ireland

The Fireworks Act 2003 does not extend to Northern Ireland (NI).

Under the terms of the Windsor Framework,¹³ NI aligns with relevant EU rules relating to the placing on the market of manufactured goods. Pyrotechnic articles placed on the NI market must therefore follow UK law as it applies to NI. The relevant law is the [Pyrotechnic Articles \(Safety\) Regulations 2015](#), which apply across the UK, but some of the provisions apply differently in NI so that they continue to implement [Directive 2013/29/EU](#) on pyrotechnic articles in NI. Anyone in NI who wants to buy, possess, and use fireworks (except indoor fireworks and sparklers) must have a valid fireworks licence.

¹¹ Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), ‘[Fireworks](#)’, accessed 28 November 2024

¹² *ibid*

¹³ As set out in Joint Declaration No 01/2023 by the UK Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the EU in the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on the Windsor Framework on 24 March 2023

The [Office for Product Safety and Standards \(OPSS\)](#) has published statutory guidance on [The Pyrotechnic Articles \(Safety\) Regulations 2015: Northern Ireland](#) (last updated 7 November 2023).

1.3

Recent developments

Million-signature fireworks restriction petition

In November 2024, a [petition with more than one million signatures](#), calling for a review of fireworks rules to protect animals from injury and distress, was [delivered to Downing Street](#).¹⁴

Fireworks Bill 2024

Sarah Owen MP (Lab, Luton North) has introduced in the House of Commons a [private members' bill](#) "to make provision about the sale of fireworks; and for connected purposes". The bill passed first reading on 16 October 2024 and is due for second reading on 17 January 2025.

The aim of the bill is to restrict the sale of categories F2 and F3 fireworks to the general public, banning their purchase both online and in stores. It would only be permissible to sell fireworks from shops licensed shops all year round. It would also introduce a 90-decibel noise limit on fireworks.¹⁵

Firework Control Zones (Scotland)

There have been a number of developments in Scotland since the passing of the [Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#), particularly relating to the creation of firework control zones. For instance, some local authorities have introduced firework control zone community request processes.¹⁶ The use of fireworks within a control zone is an offence punishable by 6 months imprisonment, fine of up to £5000, or both.

In 2024, councils in Edinburgh and Glasgow held consultations on introducing firework control zones. The [City of Edinburgh Council voted against a control zone](#) (PDF) covering the entire city and, instead, introduced temporary restrictions in Niddrie, Balerno, Seafield and Carlton Hill, with those controls zones to be in place from 1-10 November 2024. Glasgow City Council considered thirteen applications for firework control zones.¹⁷

¹⁴ The Standard, '[Million-signature firework restrictions petition handed in to Downing Street](#)', accessed 28 November 2024

¹⁵ BBC News, '[Fresh campaigner hope over anti-social fireworks](#)', accessed 28 November 2024

¹⁶ Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPiCe), '[Fireworks](#)', accessed 28 November 2024

¹⁷ *ibid*

In response [to a question lodged on 10 May 2024, in the Scottish Parliament](#), Siobhian Brown, stated that funding was provided in the 2023-24 financial year to City of Edinburgh Council, North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council and Dundee City Council to support their work on the development of firework control zones.

1.4

E-Petition

[Petition 639319](#), to “ban the sale of fireworks to the general public”, ran for 6 months, it closed on 15 December with 50,288 signatures. The petition called for:

Ban the sale of fireworks to the general public

Purchasing and owning fireworks should not be allowed for the general public. The Government should introduce a law stating that fireworks should only be permitted for professional shows and events - this will mean they are handled safely, cleanly, and at predictable times.

The negatives of fireworks outweigh the positives. Every year fireworks do the following:

- Stress out animals, often to point of causing death
- Trigger people with PTSD and trauma (e.g. soldiers)
- Harm those with sensory issues, due to the unpredictable noise
- Cause litter that is then left to rot
- Flood our already stretched A&Es with unnecessary injuries

I understand that they look pretty, however they do more damage than good. Pro shows enable people to still enjoy them, just considerately.

The government provided the following response to the petition:

The Government has no plans to ban the sale of fireworks to the public but continues to monitor the situation. We believe the majority of individuals use fireworks safely and appropriately.

The Government understands that people want to enjoy fireworks. We believe that the legislative framework controlling fireworks strikes the right balance and we have no plans to replace it at this time.

The Government's intention has always been to minimise any negative impact of fireworks, and we support their considerate use, reducing the risks and disturbances to individuals, animals, and property. The majority of individuals who use fireworks do so in a responsible and safe manner and there are enforcement mechanisms in place to tackle situations when fireworks are misused. Local authorities and the police also have powers to tackle anti-

social behaviour caused by the misuse of fireworks. It is for local areas to decide how best to deploy these powers, based on their specific circumstances. Whilst there is no evidence to suggest that there is a widespread issue with unsafe or illegal fireworks being used in the UK, the Government continues to work with the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities, including Border Force and Trading Standards, to take action against anyone who imports or sells fireworks illegally in the UK.

Existing legislation controls the sale, availability, and use of fireworks. For example, there is an 11pm curfew in place for the use of fireworks, with later exceptions only for the traditional firework periods of November 5th, Diwali, New Year's Eve and the Chinese New Year. Using fireworks outside the curfew hours is a criminal offence enforced by the police and can lead to imprisonment and a substantial fine. Lower noise fireworks are commercially available to consumers to purchase if they wish to, potentially reducing any distress to vulnerable groups and animals.

A number of animal welfare and veterinary organisations also provide advice and guidance to enable people to minimise the impacts of fireworks on animal welfare. We are working closely with these organisations to amplify this messaging in the run up to, and during, key dates when fireworks are commonly used.

Individuals should always read the instructions on a firework before use, to ensure that they are aware of how to use the firework safely, reducing the risk of an accident or injury. In addition, fireworks should always be disposed of responsibly by ensuring they are out, soaking them in water overnight, then putting them in the appropriate bin. Guidance on safe use and disposal is widely available from various sources, including on Gov.uk.

However, this petition has been selected by the Petitions Committee for debate despite not reaching the usual 100,000 signatures threshold.

The debate on the petition will be held on Monday 9 December 2024.

2 Parliamentary material

2.1 Debates

[Fireworks \(Noise Limits\)](#) - HC Deb 17 Apr 2024 - 748 cc336-8

[Misuse of Fireworks Bill](#) - HC Deb 21 Jan 2022 - 707 cc685-691

[Fireworks: Sale and Use](#) - HC Deb 08 Nov 2021 - 703 cc1-25WH

[Fireworks](#) - HC Deb 02 Nov 2020 - 683 cc1-22WH

2.2 Statements

[Protest Measures](#)

08 Feb 2024 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 745 cc378-388

2.3 Parliamentary questions

[Fireworks](#)

Asked by: Beales, Danny

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps he is taking to improve the enforcement of fireworks regulations.

Answering member: Justin Madders | **Department:** Department for Business and Trade

Enforcement powers exist for local authorities to take action when fireworks are unsafe, sold illegally or misused. Local authorities and the police also have powers to tackle anti-social behaviour caused by the misuse of fireworks. It is for local areas to decide how best to deploy these powers, based on their specific circumstances.

To inform any future decisions I intend to engage with businesses, consumer groups and charities shortly after the fireworks season to gather evidence on the issues and impacts of fireworks.

25 Nov 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 15545

Date tabled: 21 Nov 2024 | Date for answer: 25 Nov 2024 | Date answered: 25 Nov 2024

[Fireworks: Noise](#)

Asked by: Raja, Shivani

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps his Department is taking to work with local authorities to enforce noise curfews during fireworks.

Answering member: Justin Madders | **Department:** Department for Business and Trade

Existing legislation already controls the sale, availability, and use of fireworks. For example, there is an 11pm curfew in place for the use of fireworks, with later exceptions only for the traditional firework periods. Using fireworks outside the curfew hours is a criminal offence, enforced by the police, and can lead to imprisonment and a substantial fine. Local authorities are also responsible for investigating any noise or nuisance issues brought to their attention under the Environmental Protection Act.

It is for local areas to decide how best to deploy these powers, based on their specific circumstances.

11 Nov 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 12773

Date tabled: 05 Nov 2024 | Date for answer: 11 Nov 2024 | Date answered: 11 Nov 2024

[Veterans: Fireworks](#)

Asked by: Duncan-Jordan, Neil

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has made an assessment with Cabinet colleagues of the potential impact of fireworks on veterans (a) with PTSD and (b) experiencing other war-related mental health trauma.

Answering member: Stephen Kinnock | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

No assessment has been made of the potential impact of fireworks on veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or any other mental health condition.

Recognising the particular challenges that veterans face, NHS England has commissioned several services for veterans, including Op COURAGE, the bespoke integrated veterans' mental health and wellbeing service. The services provide a fully integrated mental health care pathway, including personalised care plans, to ensure veterans can access support and treatment both in and out of hours.

Op COURAGE is available across England. Individuals can contact the service to make an appointment or ask someone to do this on their behalf. Further information is available at the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-community/mental-health/veterans-reservists/>

08 Nov 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 12016

Date tabled: 30 Oct 2024 | Date for answer: 04 Nov 2024 | Date answered: 08 Nov 2024

Fireworks: Safety

Asked by: Duncan-Jordan, Neil

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, if his Department will make an assessment of the adequacy of the Fireworks Regulations 2004 to protect (a) people and (b) animals from the negative impact of fireworks.

Answering member: Justin Madders | **Department:** Department for Business and Trade

Most people use fireworks in a responsible, safe, and appropriate manner and there are laws in place to address situations where fireworks are misused. The current regulatory framework is designed to support people to enjoy fireworks whilst lowering the risk of dangers and disruption to people, pets, and property. The Government has recently launched an awareness campaign on the Gov.uk website to provide guidance on minimising the impacts of fireworks on people and animals.

To inform any future decisions on fireworks policy I intend to engage with businesses, consumer groups and charities shortly after the fireworks season to gather evidence on the issues and impacts with fireworks. Officials regularly meet and correspond with charities to listen to and understand their views.

06 Nov 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 12015

Date tabled: 30 Oct 2024 | Date for answer: 04 Nov 2024 | Date answered: 06 Nov 2024

[Animals: Fireworks](#)

Asked by: Kyrke-Smith, Laura

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to support the (a) health and (b) welfare of (i) pets and (ii) wild animals during fireworks season in Aylesbury constituency.

Answering member: Mary Creagh | **Department:** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Existing fireworks legislation controls the sale, availability, and use of fireworks. There is an 11pm curfew in place for the use of fireworks, with later exceptions only for the traditional firework periods. Using fireworks outside the curfew hours is a criminal offence.

Users of fireworks should be aware of animals in the neighbouring area and use them responsibly. As a matter of best practice, those organising displays should give neighbouring owners advance notice and ensure that fireworks are not set off near livestock or horses in fields, or close to buildings that house livestock.

Government officials have been working with Combat Stress, Help for Heroes and the Dogs Trust to share information about safe and considerate use of fireworks. The Government has recently launched an awareness campaign on the Gov.uk website to provide guidance on minimising the impacts of fireworks on people and animals.

29 Oct 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 10577

Date tabled: 22 Oct 2024 | Date for answer: 29 Oct 2024 | Date answered: 29 Oct 2024

[Fireworks: Scotland](#)

Asked by: McCabe, Steve

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether she has had discussions with her counterpart in the Scottish Government on the effectiveness of the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 in tackling (a) anti-social behaviour and (b) animal welfare concerns.

Answering member: Kevin Hollinrake | **Department:** Department for Business and Trade

There is a comprehensive legislative framework regulating the manufacture, storage, supply, possession and use of fireworks in the UK. The Government

has no current plans to review the legislation, but we continue to monitor the situation.

The Government regularly engages with its counterparts in Scotland. We have discussed the recent Scottish legislative changes with them, and we will continue to discuss the impacts of their approach to fireworks legislation.

23 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 9732

Date tabled: 16 Jan 2024 | Date for answer: 23 Jan 2024 | Date answered: 23 Jan 2024

[Business of the House](#)

The Leader of the House might remember that, just before bonfire night, I raised my concerns about potential disorder and asked at business questions for a debate. In just one ward in my constituency on bonfire night, there were 18 arrests of young men, and more followed. Really tragically, one young man, a 17-year-old, lost his life having been fatally injured that night. Can I now ask her, with almost a year to go, whether she will consider pulling together a Government taskforce to consider the regulation of fireworks, protections for emergency service workers and our communities, and the proper resourcing of youth services, so that we can make sure that people enjoy bonfire night responsibly, and that we do not see these pockets of persistent and really quite violent disorder?

01 Dec 2022 | Business questions | House of Commons | 723 c1024

Member: Holly Lynch (Halifax) (Lab)

[Fireworks: Injuries](#)

Asked by: Maskell, Rachael

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what data he holds on the number of injuries from fireworks which have been recorded as requiring hospital treatment or other treatment in each of the last five years; and how many inquiries the NHS has received relating to treatment for burns from fireworks in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Paul Scully | **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Any attack on the emergency services, including any that involve fireworks, is a police matter under the criminal law, including the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018. The Home Office and the Department for Health and Social Care manage the pressures on the emergency services.

NHS statistics show that fireworks injuries have declined since 2016. The number of A&E attendances in England due to “firework injury” was 53 in 2019-2020, compared to 1,835 in 2018-2019, 4,378 in 2017-18 and 5,227 in 2016-17.

As part of the Government’s programme of action, we continue to commission research and use evidence to inform our work. This has included developing and publishing an evidence base on fireworks and undertaking engagement with a wide range of organisations. Through our public awareness campaign for the 2021 fireworks season, we have promoted the safe and considerate use of fireworks to the general public, to ensure that those using them do so safely and considerately.

19 Nov 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 72518

Date tabled: 09 Nov 2021 | Date for answer: 15 Nov 2021 | Date answered: 19 Nov 2021

[Veterans: Mental Illness](#)

Asked by: Longhi, Marco

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he has made an assessment of the effect of fireworks on veterans suffering from (a) PTSD and (b) mental health disorders.

Answering member: Johnny Mercer | **Department:** Cabinet Office

The Government recognises that the use of fireworks can affect veterans and other groups due to the loud noise or flashes associated with fireworks and remains committed to promoting the safe and considerate use of fireworks. Advice for veterans about the potential impact of fireworks is available on the Veterans Gateway

https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/732/~/_/five-tips-to-help-you-deal-with-bonfire-night-and-fireworks

Advice on how to use fireworks safely and in a considerate manner, that includes the considerations of vulnerable people, can be found as a part of the Office for Product Safety and Standards 2020 campaign that launched in October.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opss-launches-firework-safety-campaign>

04 Dec 2020 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 121388

Date tabled: 26 Nov 2020 | Date for answer: 30 Nov 2020 | Date answered: 04 Dec 2020

[Fireworks: Lancashire](#)

Asked by: Esterson, Bill

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of the Chief Constable of Lancashire's recommendation for the public sale of fireworks to be banned.

Answering member: Kit Malthouse | Department: Home Office

There is a comprehensive regulatory framework already in place for fireworks that controls the sale, availability and use of fireworks, as well as setting a curfew and noise limit. The Government remains committed to promoting the safe and considerate use of fireworks through the effective legislative framework and through non-legislative measures – a position also recommended by the Petitions Committee in its 2019 inquiry into fireworks (HC103).

The Government launched a public awareness campaign for the 2020 fireworks season. The focus of the campaign was to educate people on how to buy, use, store and dispose of fireworks safely; ensure retailers know and understand their responsibilities when selling fireworks; and, promote the considerate use of fireworks, so that people and animals can be better protected from any negative effects that may be caused by fireworks.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides the police, local authorities and other local agencies with a range of tools and powers that they can use to respond quickly and effectively to anti-social behaviour. The latest police recorded incident data released on 28 October showed a continued fall in anti-social behaviour (ASB) as of June 2020 (down 33% since 2012/13). A regional assessment of trends in the level of anti-social behaviour in relation to the discharge of fireworks was not included.

19 Nov 2020 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 114849

Date tabled: 12 Nov 2020 | Date for answer: 17 Nov 2020 | Date answered: 19 Nov 2020

[Fireworks: Damage](#)

Asked by: Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Lab Co-op)

My Lords, last year the London fire brigade attended over 2,000 incidents over the Halloween and bonfire night period. Over the last five years, 45% of the fires ignited by fireworks in London during the bonfire night period occurred at residential properties. I support the call from the noble Lord, Lord Greaves, for fireworks only to be in the hands of professionals, who can

deliver an exciting, memorable display safely, for the enjoyment of everyone and minimising the risk to people and property. The Minister's response to previous questions is disappointing; can she at least say that the Government will keep this under review?

Answered by: Baroness Williams of Trafford (Con)

I can, of course, say to the noble Lord that all legislation is kept under review. If there was evidence of increasing injuries or misuse of fireworks, we would look at it. The Petitions Committee had a good look at this last year and concluded that it could not support a ban on the sale or use of fireworks. However, the noble Lord makes an appropriate point about the responsible use of fireworks. It is very sad that firework displays have not been able to take place this year. It is true that we need to be responsible in using things which are potentially very dangerous.

11 Nov 2020 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Lords | 807 c1033

Date answered: 11 Nov 2020

2.4

Committee material

[Fireworks Inquiry](#)

09 Jul 2019 | Parliamentary committees - House of Commons papers - Select Committee reports, oral and written evidence | House of Commons |

Corporate author: Petitions Committee

[Fireworks](#)

First Report of the Petitions Committee, Session 2019, Fireworks, HC 103, Published on 5 November 2019

[Fireworks: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2019](#)

First Special Report of the Petitions Committee, Session 2019-21, HC 242, Published on 20 March 2020

3

Media

[MP Andrew Cooper calls for quieter firework alternatives](#)

Northwich & Winsford Guardian

22 November 2024

[Owner issues firework warning after horse loses eye](#)

ITVX

20 November 2024

[Why fireworks laws must change after death of Roxie the red panda cub](#)

The Scotsman

18 November 2024

[Fireworks blamed for baby red panda's death at Edinburgh zoo](#)

Guardian

14 November 2024

[Bonfire Night disorder across Edinburgh - youths hurl fireworks at police and start fires](#)

Sky News

06 November 2024

[Million-strong fireworks petition goes to No 10](#)

BBC News

05 November 2024

[Labour MP Says "Unneighbourly" Use Of Fireworks Is "Hugely Detrimental" To Vulnerable People And Pets](#)

Politics Home

03 November 2024

[Dementia charity offers firework advice for Surrey](#)

BBC News

02 November 2024

[Fresh campaigner hope over anti-social fireworks](#)

BBC News

27 October 2024

[Fear loud fireworks ban could hit charity events](#)

BBC News

21 October 2024

[Fireworks 'protection measures' for damaged park](#)

BBC News

18 September 2024

[Finally a ban on fireworks - but I want the lot completely outlawed](#)

Scottish Daily Mail

12 September 2024

[Opinion: We must spark a change in fireworks use](#)

By Sarah Owen

Luton Today

02 September 2024

[The 12 Scots areas where people are soon going to be banned from using fireworks](#)

Scottish Daily Express

08 August 2024

[Scots firework licensing scheme to be delayed by SNP Ministers over budget pressure](#)

Daily Record

23 February 2024

[Proposed licence for buying fireworks a 'material change', says Faculty](#)

The Faculty of Advocates

29 April 2022

4

Further reading

Commons Library Briefings

[Regulation of fireworks](#), 4 September 2024

[Fireworks: Import, storage and sale](#), 9 June 2023

[Fireworks: Purchase, possession and use](#), 9 June 2023

Legislation

[Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#)

[Fireworks \(Scotland\) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2021](#)

[The Pyrotechnic Articles \(Safety\) Regulations 2015: Northern Ireland](#)

[Fireworks \(Scotland\) Regulations 2004](#)

[Fireworks Regulations 2004](#)

Government publications

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), '[Fireworks](#)', accessed 28 November 2024

Safer Communities Directorate, [The Fireworks \(Scotland\) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2021: information on the use of fireworks](#), 24 June 2021

Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), '[Consumer behaviours and attitudes to fireworks](#)' (PDF), April 2021

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