



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Eirian Roberts
Email: rtli1950@gmail.com

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

Our ref: TOSL2021/03361

9 February 2021

Dear Edgar Owen,

Thank you for your letter of 7 January, regarding fireworks. The Secretary of State is grateful to you for having taken the time to write. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

I would like to reassure you that the Government takes the issues associated with the sale and use of fireworks seriously. There is a comprehensive regulatory framework already in place for fireworks that aims to reduce the risks and disturbances to people and animals. Existing legislation controls the sale, availability and use of fireworks, as well as setting a curfew and noise limit.

I have noted the actions that Gwynedd Council is taking and its views on appropriate noise limits. For your information, the Office for Product Safety and Standards has been considering issues that have been raised around fireworks, including noise and disturbance, whilst we continue to monitor the impact of fireworks on communities, and we will continue to do so.

It is a matter for each local authority to decide whether to undertake the actions proposed, and to satisfy themselves they have the appropriate powers to do so. While the Government advises that it is good practice for notice to be given to neighbours in advance of any fireworks display, there is no legal requirement for fireworks displays to be advertised in advance of an event.

You may be interested to know that in its 2019 inquiry into fireworks, the House of Commons Petitions Committee concluded that it could not support a ban on the sale of fireworks to the public. Their reasoning identified the potential for unintended consequences that would be counterproductive for public safety, such as individuals sourcing illegal and unsafe products online. The National Fire Chiefs Council also agreed with this conclusion.

The Petitions Committee's conclusion aligns with the Government's own position. We remain committed to promoting the safe and considerate use of fireworks through an effective legislative framework and through non-legislative measures – an action also recommended by the Petitions Committee.

I appreciate the work your Council is considering and looking to carry out. Recent actions taken by this Department have included running a public awareness campaign for the 2020 fireworks season, engaging with animal charities on animal welfare issues and engaging with Local Authorities to understand the issues they face with regards to fireworks. I would encourage you to liaise with officials in the Office for Product Safety and Standards when promoting the safe and responsible use of fireworks. Officials will be happy to support you and provide advice on your campaign materials, checking that they reflect the law and where possible compliment the work the Office does through its public awareness campaigns and advice to retailers. Please contact my official Maeve Nicholson at maeve.nicholson@beis.gov.uk who leads on the campaign work and will be happy to discuss this further.

Whilst I appreciate this response may not necessarily allay all of the Council's concerns, the Government receives representations from a wide range of stakeholders, including members of the public, organisations and charities, all with ranging views on what the issues are and what action they would like to see.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsty Wallace
BEIS CORRESPONDENCE UNIT