



Department for
Business, Energy
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Dear Damian Eaton,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 February to the former Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Corporate Responsibility, Kelly Tolhurst MP, regarding Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council's resolution on fireworks. I have been asked to reply.

We aware that the RSPCA has written to Councils setting out their views on fireworks and urging them to write to the Government about their specific concerns. Of course, it is a matter for each Local Authority to decide whether to undertake the actions proposed and to satisfy themselves that 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.

I would like to assure you that the Government takes the matter of fireworks seriously. We receive 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.

There are existing laws in place to control firework availability and use, to reduce the risks to people and disturbance to animals, which include age related restrictions, a curfew, and a noise limit. There are also enforcement mechanisms in place to tackle situations when fireworks are sold illegally or misused.

The Government has taken a keen interest in this issue and have been listening to the concerns that individuals have been raising in debate and through correspondence. As a result, the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) have been asked to develop a fact-based evidence base on the key issues that have been raised around fireworks. This includes looking at data around noise and disturbance, anti-social behaviour, non-compliance, environmental impact, and the impact on humans and animals.

The OPSS has been engaging directly with the RSPCA to understand what evidence they have regarding the impact of firework noise on animals so that it can be included in the evidence base.

The aim of the evidence base is to build a full picture of the data around fireworks in order for us to identify whether there is a problem, and if so, what action - if any - is appropriate.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

U.Fatania
BEIS CORRESPONDENCE UNIT