



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Kelly Tolhurst MP

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Our ref: MCB2020/02158/UF
Your ref: HD/KLW

20 February 2020

Re: Cllr David

Thank you for your letter dated 30 January to The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, regarding the RSPCA's motion for Councils on fireworks. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

We are 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, and includes 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.

I have 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, I have asked the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) 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.

gas oner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Tolhurst', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KELLY TOLHURST MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Corporate Responsibility