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Our ref: MCB2024/13022
Your ref: JU82151

13 January 2025

Dear Sir Julian,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 December on behalf of your constituent, regarding fireworks regulations.

The Government's intention is to minimise the negative impact of fireworks and to support their considerate use, reducing the risks and disturbances to individuals, animals, and property. Most individuals who use fireworks do so in a responsible and safe manner and there are laws in place to tackle situations when fireworks are misused.

To ensure people continue to use fireworks in a safe and considerate manner, I launched a fireworks campaign for this fireworks season to provide guidance on minimising the impacts of fireworks on animal welfare and encouraging responsible use. Lower noise fireworks were promoted in the campaign alongside considerate use. This supplemented existing guidance from Government and other organisations that is available to help people to use fireworks safely and appropriately.

Existing legislation in the UK 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.

A licensing regime also exists, with retailers already needing a licence to supply fireworks outside of the traditional firework periods. Even then, retailers may still need a licence in the selling periods, depending on the quantity they wish to store and sell.

To inform any future decisions I am engaging with businesses, consumer groups and charities to gather evidence on the issues and impacts with fireworks. Your constituent raised both insights and recommendations from the recent Social Market Foundation research funded by the RSPCA and I will consider these along with other evidence I receive. It is important that we ensure the safe, responsible and considerate use of fireworks for business and consumers alike.

Yours ever,

JUSTIN MADDERS MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Rights, Competition and Markets