

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2022

Dear Consultant

Thank you for your email about fireworks and the impact they have on animals.

I fully appreciate the distress that fireworks can cause to pets, livestock and wildlife. I understand that there is a noise level limit of 120 decibels on fireworks for home use, which helps to reduce disturbance to both animals and people. Fireworks used for professionally organised displays are only available for sale to people who have undertaken an accredited course of training in pyrotechnics.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to animals through the misuse of fireworks. Fireworks should not be set off near livestock or close to buildings that house livestock, or near horses in fields. Anyone planning a firework display in rural areas should warn neighbouring farmers.

Further, I understand that retailers are restricted to only selling consumer fireworks during a limited period around specific seasonal celebrations, and retailers may only supply fireworks outside these periods if they obtain a licence from their local licensing authority. However, I am not aware of any plans to introduce further restrictions on the sale of fireworks to the public.

Finally, the Government published a statutory Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs, which advises dog owners to avoid exercising with dogs during times when fireworks could be let off. I understand that during the 2021 fireworks season, the Government worked with animal welfare groups to promote the safe and considerate use of fireworks.

However, I fully understand the desire to see more action on this issue. As such, I was pleased to be able to sponsor a drop-in event in Parliament on Tuesday 1 November to highlight the need for a review of existing fireworks legislation, accounting for their impact on human and animal welfare. The Event was supported by a number of charities, namely; The Dogs Trust, Blue Cross, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Cats Protection, the Children's Burns Trust, the Kennel Club, Combat Stress, PTSD UK, Dan's Fund, Help for Heroes and the British Veterinary Association.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

yours faithfully
Peter Gibson

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

Constituency Office: 34 Duke Street, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 7AQ Telephone: 01325 711711

Email: peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.petergibson.org

@gibbo4darlo