Leighton Andrews AC / AM Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04 - 615 Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/05365/14

William Powell AM Chair, Petitions Committee Tŷ Hywel Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1NA

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8

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Jear William

Thank you for your letter of 22 December regarding a petition from Ms Kathy Peart calling on the Welsh Government to prevent fireworks being sold to the general public.

The sale of fireworks is not a devolved matter. It is governed by the Fireworks Act 2003 and regulations made under it by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. Those regulations restrict the sale and use of fireworks, for instance by prohibiting their sale to children and requiring retailers to be licensed; but neither I nor the Assembly could ban the sale of fireworks completely in Wales.

However, the Welsh Government has funded the Fire and Rescue Service to improve firework safety. For instance, the Fire and Rescue Service works in partnership with the Police to carry out Operation BANG (Be A Nice Guy) which aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and dangerous use of fireworks. I am happy to support these initiatives, but could not commit to the complete ban which your petition advocates.

Leighton Andrews AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

Minister for Public Services