

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion
Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1417
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/05058/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru

15 April 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March regarding Petition P-06-1417 in relation to banning shops from selling fireworks.

Since we published our first Noise and Soundscape Action Plan for Wales in 2018 firework noise has been raised a number of times by citizens. Petitions have been considered in both the House of Commons and in the Senedd with new legislation being passed by the Scottish Government. The latest [Noise and Soundscapes Action Plan 2023-2028](#) sets out our policy on Fireworks.

The Welsh Government does not believe the current legislation in England and Wales is adequate to protect vulnerable people and animals from the effects of firework noise. Welsh Ministers have repeatedly urged the UK Government to accept the House of Commons Petitions Committee recommendation to seek a workable reduced maximum decibel limit, which would diminish the risks posed by firework noise.

The regulation of the sale and supply of goods and services to consumers is a reserved matter under Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006. Regulation-making powers under the Fireworks Act 2003 rest with the Secretary of State in relation to England and Wales. Therefore, Welsh Ministers are not able to mirror the regulations made by the Scottish Government in 2021 which tightened conditions on the sale and use of fireworks.

Given the proximity of Wales' most populated areas to shops in England, and the ease of shopping online, the Welsh Government would welcome concerted action across Great Britain to ensure that in future fireworks available for sale are quieter and used at more predictable times of the year.

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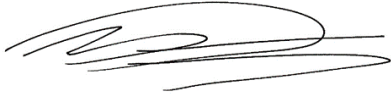
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Welsh Government will continue to work constructively with UK Government to improve the laws governing the sale and use of fireworks in England and Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

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