

## Response ID ANON-1EGW-MD92-G

Submitted to **A consultation on fireworks in Scotland: Your experiences, your ideas, your views**

Submitted on 2019-02-11 12:00:17

### Part One: How are fireworks used in Scotland?

#### 1 What is the main way you typically enjoy and experience fireworks?

Do not attend firework events

If other, please provide details.:

#### 2 Would you say that fireworks form an important part of celebration events for you?

No

#### 3 Have you been affected by fireworks being used in an irresponsible or unsafe way?

Yes

If yes, please provide details.:

We are a member organisation. We know that our members experience a range of additional demands as a consequence of unsafe and irresponsible use of fireworks. This can and does vary across the country in terms of degree and impact. Notwithstanding any irresponsible or unsafe use, we know that planning for bonfire night and other similar events/periods can take up a lot of partnership time and resources.

### Part Two: Legislation and Regulation

#### 4 Do you think there should be more controls over the sale of fireworks?

Yes

If Yes, please tell us what controls you would like to see in place. If No, please tell us why you do not feel more controls are needed. :

Yes, this needs to be proportionate to the issue and should not be a one size fits all approach. There are many people using fireworks responsibly and safely who would not benefit from tighter restrictions. Any additional controls should be targeted to best effect.

At the moment, in the lead up to Bonfire Night, anyone can apply for a sale of fireworks licence and the LA have to grant approval. This seems an obvious area for checks and balances and new procedures. It is strange that there are tighter controls for the rest of the year and it would make sense to explore any other approaches.

#### 5 What are your views on banning the sale of fireworks to the public in Scotland?

No, I would not welcome a ban on the sale of fireworks.

If Yes, please tell us why you would welcome a ban. If No, please tell us why you would not welcome a ban.:

This is a reserved matter. However, there is scope to influence Westminster depending on public response to this consultation. Whatever though, we would not support an outright ban on fireworks as we feel there are other methodologies that could be explored to keep communities safe from the dangers of irresponsible use of fireworks.

#### 6 Do you think there should be more controls on how fireworks can be used in Scotland?

Yes

If Yes, please tell us what controls you would like to see in place. If No, please tell us why not. :

Effort could be made to influence licencing boards to use their powers differently to address some of the local issues likely to be raised in this consultation.

Improved joint working between Community Safety Partnerships, communities/community groups and agencies and Licencing Boards could produce more locally adapted arrangements and controls that could appropriately and proportionately find solutions.

### Part Three: Prevention and Community Involvement

#### 7 What do you think could be done by national and local partners to further prevent the misuse of fireworks?

What do you think could be done by national and local partners to further prevent the misuse of fireworks?:

SCSN firmly believes that there is more we can do to prevent fireworks injury and harm by - involving communities in the planning processes much earlier and using their resources and local knowledge to prevent harm. Having positive conversations with communities - using an asset based approach could support the sort of changes they want to see locally.

There are some really good examples of community safety partnerships jointly planning for fireworks and bonfire nights eg

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/police-get-special-help-for-bonfire-night-trouble-in-edinburgh-1-4795677>  
Operation Moonbeam in Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Edinburgh.

Another good example is - <http://whatworksscotland.ac.uk/tag/citizens-jury/>

Overall, improved partnership working with communities at the centre is to be encouraged.

## **8 What ways do you think communities could be involved in supporting the safe use of fireworks?**

### **What ways do you think communities could be involved in supporting the safe use of fireworks?:**

Communities have strong views about fireworks and bonfires - the size of this consultation response to date shows the amount of interest there is around the issue. Community Safety Partnerships could act locally on the back of this consultation to involve communities in further discussion about what matters to them and to provide factual and balanced information to enable deeper involvement in planning and prevention.

### **We would like to hear any examples of how your community is involved in organising or promoting the safe and responsible use of fireworks.:**

See response to Q7

## **9 What do you think could be done to raise awareness of the risks of fireworks misuse among the public?**

### **What do you think could be done to raise awareness of the risks of fireworks misuse among the public?:**

There are a number of other agencies and organisations affected by use of fireworks who have a role to play in raising awareness. For example, LA Community Learning and Development and Community Regeneration teams; Education Authorities; Scottish Ambulance Service and the wider NHS including Community Health Organisations all have a role to play. Third sector organisations often have routes into communities that could be better used to raise awareness and even places like doctors surgeries, health centres and betting shops for example. This consultation could provide a useful springboard for further awareness raising and local engagement. Animal welfare organisations could be involved within partnerships in a different way as they plan for key dates and events.

## **Part Four: Animal Welfare**

## **10 Do you think that there should be more controls to make sure animals are not caused unnecessary suffering because of the use of fireworks?**

Yes

### **If Yes, please tell us what controls you would like to see in place. If No, please tell us why you do not feel more controls are needed. :**

Yes, but its hard to know what and we are not best placed to comment further.

### **We would like to hear any examples of how you or your community acts to reduce the impact of fireworks on animals.:**

## **About you**

### **What is your name?**

**Name:**

Lorraine Gillies

### **What is your email address?**

**Email:**

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### **Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?**

Organisation

### **What is your organisation?**

**Organisation:**

Scottish Community Safety Network

### **The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:**

Publish response with name

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

## Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Very satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Very satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**