

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-616
Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/00314/15

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

1 June 2015

Dear William,

I wrote to you on 22 April about the petition your Committee has received calling for a ban on the sale of fireworks to the general public. In that letter, I indicated that I needed to consider the legal advice your Committee had received on this matter, which you forwarded to me with your letter of 9 April.

It is difficult for me to reach a view on the Assembly's competence as regards hypothetical legislation to ban the sale and use of fireworks. However, and as I said in my earlier letter, current functions to regulate the sale and use of fireworks in Wales are not exercisable by the Welsh Ministers. Under the Fireworks Act 2003, these rest with the Secretary of State. There is, therefore, no action I can take using existing executive powers.

I do not doubt the sincerity of your petitioners' views about the risks to human and animal health from the deliberate or accidental misuse of fireworks. However, fireworks are relatively insignificant as a cause of fire. Only six primary (more serious) fires were started this way in 2013-14, whereas candles accounted for 65, and cooking appliances for over 1,000. That, along with the absence of existing executive powers, means I cannot give any priority to taking this issue further.

Yours sincerely,

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

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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