

Government to consult on fireworks

Following discussions last year, the Community Safety Minister Ash Denham MSP has announced a consultation on fireworks in the New Year.

The consultation will be used to improve understanding on the use of fireworks and sales regulations.

This might result in the government restricting sales or the use in future. They recognise that while fireworks are often used for celebrations, they can cause distress to people and animals in certain circumstances. The government will look at reducing any negative impact.

Ms Denham said: "Many people enjoy attending fireworks displays but I am very aware from conversations with members of the public and emergency service workers that there is growing concern about the use and sale of fireworks to individuals.

"The hard work of the police and fire services to tackle dangerous and anti-social behaviour helped to reduce the number of bonfire night incidents this year. However, there were still a number of concerning reports and I am keen to hear the public's views on the impact of fireworks and action we could take to improve the situation further. As much of the legislation on fireworks is currently reserved we will also continue to engage with the UK Government."

Assistant Chief Officer David McGown, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Director of Prevention and Protection, said:

"Our Service welcomes any wider public debate around matters of safety, which includes fire, and in particular the use of fireworks.

“We therefore also welcome this consultation which will allow a breadth of opinion and considerations to be gathered.”