

The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

16 July 2026

Consultations on reform of fireworks

Dear Liam,

I am writing to inform you that my department will be publishing a consultation to seek views on proposals on reforming fireworks and pyrotechnics use in the UK: Reducing the harms, celebrating safely.

Fireworks are enjoyed by many for celebrations and cultural events. However, their antisocial use has become a growing concern, as seen from public complaints, parliamentary debates, and petitions calling for stronger controls due to the negative impacts on neighbourhood safety, vulnerable people, and animals. This consultation aims to tackle these harms from fireworks, in support of the UK Government's Safer Streets Mission. The goal is to find a balanced approach that preserving the enjoyment of fireworks while reducing harm and distress to people and animals. The consultation seeks views on proposals to:

1. Update the list of banned pyrotechnics articles set out in regulation 33 of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015 (as amended).

The list bans certain F2 and F3 fireworks, or combinations of fireworks, from being sold to members of the public. Under regulation 62, economic operators who make these products available on the market to those without specialist knowledge are committing a criminal offence. We can add other products to this list to reduce or mitigate health and safety risks, including potential misuse.

We understand particular pyrotechnics, due to their design, are more frequently used anti-socially, including as weapons against emergency services or members of the public. We are seeking views on the safety and security risks of particular products. We also intend to clarify in the existing regulations that shot tubes, already banned, cannot be supplied in combination.

2. Review the regulations for F1 and P1 fireworks and pyrotechnic products to better reflect the different levels of risk they pose.

F1 and P1 fireworks and pyrotechnics are considered the lowest risk fireworks and cover a broad range of products, including small indoor fireworks or novelty items.

Christmas crackers cannot be bought by persons younger than 12. Retailers have told us they view the age restriction on Christmas crackers as disproportionate to the low risk posed by the product, and removing this age restriction would remove a business burden. We are seeking views on the regulatory requirements for Christmas crackers and other categories of different F1 and P1 fireworks and pyrotechnics, to better reflect their varying levels of risk.

3. Restrict the availability of noisier fireworks to the public, with louder products only available to professional users.

We are seeking views on prohibiting the noisiest fireworks from being available for consumers to buy (by adding them to the regulation 33 banned list). This would remove the most harmful products, which cause significant distress, from consumer hands. Persons with 'specialist knowledge' would still be able to purchase and use them in professional displays, ensuring the industry can continue to supply a wide range of products for different consumers' requirements.

The consultation document and response form can be found at: [Fireworks and pyrotechnics in the UK - GOV.UK](#)

Next Steps

Charities and parliamentarians have been advocating for reform for many years. The consultations will build on existing engagement and will run for 12 weeks, ending on 7 October 2026. We welcome all views and contributions and encourage stakeholders to respond. The Department's engagement with stakeholders on fireworks through both existing forums and targeted engagement will continue to include representatives of businesses and charities. Views and evidence gathered through the consultation process will be used to inform the development and implementation of secondary legislation to ensure the legislative framework for fireworks is proportionate and fit for the future.

With best wishes,



Kate Dearden MP

Minister for Employment Rights and Consumer Protection
Department for Business and Trade