

Response to Questions from Councillors requiring a written response

WQ1

Question asked by Councillor Kirsty Jones of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods, Safety and Inclusion

In January we proposed a motion regarding restrictions to the use of fireworks in Nottingham with the intention of protecting both people and animals. Unfortunately, it feels like little has changed with private use fireworks seemingly being set off earlier and earlier each year. Can the Portfolio Holder advise what powers we, as a Council, can offer to protect the people and pets of this city?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

The Explosives Regulations 2014 allow retailers to sell fireworks from the 15th October to the 10th November at this time of the year.

Trading Standards Officers have carried out inspections before the 15th October to ensure that retailers were not stocking or selling fireworks before this date.

There is one retailer within the City who can sell fireworks all year round as they hold a special licence issued under the Fireworks Regulations 2004. This allows citizens to buy fireworks for other celebrations such as New Year, Diwali, Chinese New Year, birthdays and weddings.

Trading Standards Officers have carried out inspections to retailers to ensure they're storing fireworks safely and securely, away from possible sources of ignition and damp.

A number of other checks have been carried out to ensure retailers are behaving responsibly and complying with the law, including checks to confirm that the retailer has the required licence to legally store and sell fireworks and that the fireworks conform to relevant safety standards to ensure that the public aren't being sold dangerous fireworks.

Retailers have also been reminded of the age restrictions that apply to the sale of fireworks: those under the age of 18 are not allowed to buy fireworks or handle them in a public place.

The Trading Standards Team have issued a press release this year advising that fireworks should only be purchased from reputable suppliers and the public are advised to steer well clear of buying fireworks online or from markets, car-boot sales, street sellers etc. Fireworks bought from these sources could be defective and are unlikely to meet UK safety requirements. Fireworks that come from a trustworthy dealer, are legally required to be CE marked. Trading Standards can also provide safety advice on disposing of unused or damaged fireworks.

The Trading Standards Team have also used their social media channels to promote the fireworks good neighbour code, which includes advice on how to protect your pets during the fireworks season.

Trading Standards are not responsible for any Anti-Social Behaviour regarding fireworks, this can be reported to the Anti Social Behaviour Team or the Police.

Trading Standards are also not responsible for the safe running of events put on by Fireworks Display Operators such as those in Pub gardens etc. The Environmental Health, Health and Safety Team are responsible for enforcing safety at these events.

Any councillors with concerns that retailers are not storing fireworks appropriately, selling fireworks that do not display a CE mark, or selling to anyone under 18; can report the matter to Trading Standards. Further information is available on our website:

<https://bit.ly/3CP99CX>