



Department for
Business & Trade

Kate Dearden MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Employment Rights and Consumer Protection
Department for Business and Trade

Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London
SW1A 2DY
United Kingdom

T +44 (0) 20 4551 0011
E Dearden.Correspondence@businessandtrade.gov.uk
W gov.uk

Councillor Carole Pattison
Leader of the Council

Our ref: MCB2025/16347

By email: LeaderandCabinet.Office@kirklees.gov.uk

29 January 2026

Dear Carole,

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 December, regarding fireworks. I am sorry to hear about the antisocial use seen with fireworks in Kirklees and appreciate you and Council colleagues bringing this to my attention.

On 19 January MPs debated two e-petitions relating to the sale and noise of fireworks respectively. I recognise that many people who have contacted their local MP or the Department directly about fireworks have watched the recent debate or have since read details of it. I understand that their correspondence is not simply seeking reassurance about government intentions, but is intended to share their own experience of how fireworks have affected them, their families, their animals, or their wider community. I am grateful to you for taking the time to set these out.

The lived experience of individuals is an important form of evidence. It helps to show how fireworks are used in practice, and the real-world impact that they can have, particularly where use is prolonged, unexpected, or disruptive. These accounts add valuable context alongside the data provided by local authorities, emergency services, animal welfare organisations and the fireworks industry.

I recognise that people hold a range of views on this issue. Many have significant concerns about noise, safety and the distress that fireworks can cause, while others value their role in celebrations and community events. Please be assured that all perspectives will be considered carefully, reflecting the breadth of opinion on this important topic.

As the Minister responsible, I will continue to ensure that all evidence gathered, including experiences shared by members of the public, is fully taken into account. I will use this evidence to determine how best to minimise harm while recognising the important role that fireworks play in cultural and community life. I can assure you that public safety, and the impact on people, animals and property, will remain central to this work.

Thank you again for writing to me and for your contribution to this ongoing consideration.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Dearden." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Dearden MP
Minister for Employment Rights and Consumer Protection
Department for Business and Trade