

BVA response to Edinburgh Council consultation on Firework Control Zones

8. Are you aware of the recent legislation that allows residents to request Fireworks Control Zones?

Yes.

9. Do you support or oppose setting up a Firework Control Zone covering the whole of the City of Edinburgh boundary area?

I support this.

10. If you support a Firework Control Zone covering the whole of the City of Edinburgh boundary area, what are your reasons?

- Noise Disturbance (e.g. sensitivity to loud noises for vulnerable groups e.g. medical condition, elderly residents, young children, residents with PTSD or anxiety, etc)
- Environmental impact (e.g. air and water pollution, effect on local wildlife, etc)
- Respiratory issues (e.g. respiratory problems aggravated by smoke from fireworks, etc.)
- Livestock and pets (e.g. disturbance to farm animals and pets, risk of animals escaping or injuring themselves, etc)
- Preventing fire hazards (e.g. reducing the risk of wildfires in areas prone to dry conditions)

12. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding fireworks regulation and an exclusion zone covering the whole of the City of Edinburgh boundary area?

BVA have a [policy position](#) on the sale and use of fireworks. BVA supports further restrictions on the use and sale fireworks to safeguard animal health and welfare. Under the UK Animal Welfare Acts humans responsible for animals must ensure that the animals under their care are protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

This includes protecting animals from pain, suffering or injury that may be caused by the use of fireworks. Loud and high-pitched fireworks can have a negative impact on animal health and welfare by causing stress or fear responses across a range of species, including companion animals, wildlife, horses, livestock and zoo animals. There is also the risk of farmed animals and wildlife ingesting firework remnants posing a health concern.

We therefore consider that current controls on the use and sale of fireworks, as well as controls to mitigate noise levels, do not go far enough to adequately safeguard the health and welfare of animals in the UK.

However, Firework Control Zones are a positive step in the right direction and we wholly support their implementation to the full across the whole City of Edinburgh boundary area. We hope to see these measures replicated across Scotland and the rest of the UK.

It is vital that the Scottish Government and local authorities ensure that there is adequate resource and guidance in place to ensure these new important rules can be properly enforced.

We remain concerned about loopholes left by exemptions for public displays to continue to take place in designated Firework Control Zones and the lack of licensing requirements for

public displays and organised events. These loopholes have the potential to be exploited and may mean that these displays still have the potential to cause stress, harm and potential injury for animals nearby.