

MP BRIEFING firework debate.

29th January 2018 in Westminster Hall 4.30pm

Summary of data collected regarding 'firework use' by
Firework Abatement Campaign

When fireworks are used at legal times by law abiding citizens the impact is just as distressing as those used after curfew. This is what a lot of people don't understand ..'your firework party isn't intimate and confined to your garden... The noise affects people and animals all round. I'm not saying most aren't responsible and you probably tell your neighbours, but do you know if the man in the gardens behind you fought in Afghanistan or perhaps was a fireman or a policeman and if they suffer with PTSD triggered by unexpected loud noises?' That is the point we are trying to get across.

The Firework Abatement Campaign (FAB) have been collecting data over the last 4 years regarding firework use/misuse/abuse.

We are supported by [social media groups](#) with over 30,000 members and have over the last 3 years petitioned the government 3 times, each time achieving well over 100,000 signatures. Petition 109702 (debated 6th June 2016) reached 100,000 signatures in 24 weeks and 3 days. Petition 168663 reached 168,160 and denied a debate. The [2017/18 petition](#) that is still running reached 100,000 signatures in 4 weeks and 6 days. [Other campaigns.](#)

The issue for the government and the reason they are not able to accept the size of the problem is because they have no statistics to support their statements. [No firework statistics](#) are collected in any useful format, as evidenced by the emergency services replies to [FOI requests](#).

Bodies we have consulted with and/or collected data from, include police forces in the UK ([FOI requests](#)). [The British Veterinary Association](#), [The British Horse Society](#), [RSPCA](#), [Shoulder to Soldier \(PTSD support\)](#), [SSPCA](#), [The Kennel Club](#) and [many other charities](#).

We have been contacted by hundreds of people sending in their own horror stories and have heard from thousands more via social media. [Report appendix I](#)

This is the size of the problem as we see it and have evidenced it over the last 4 yrs. Please click on the blue links for further information on each subject.

Firework use is increasing and the “Creeping firework season” is getting longer. Some members of the public, living in towns and cities, have no respite from October to January.

Hospital admissions actually climbing.

- [from2014-2017](#) - child hospital admissions increased dramatically - [Max was just one case.](#)
- A&E attendances are increasing year on year - [20.43% increase from 2014](#) 2017
- St Johns Ambulance also report increases - [111% A&E increase since 2009](#)
- St Johns Ambulance conducted a survey - [1/3 of family adults witnessed child injury](#)
- In the two years AFTER the current legislation came into effect there were [47 serious eye injuries, 53% required ocular surgery and 8 patients had to have their eye removed.](#)

Anti-social behaviour increasing.

- Attacks on emergency services are increasing -
- High level of concern shown by Police and Fire Chiefs - [Fire Chiefs and Police pledge](#)
- West Yorkshire Fire Service campaign on their own behalf - [More than a uniform.](#)
- Our researchers have found [221 firework incidents](#) reported on the internet between January 2017 to January 2018. (Not definitive, and does not include lost or injured animals)

MP replies to constituents.

- Many of our members have written to their own MPs
- En mass responses received have been the same standard replies that have been sent out since 2015. - [You believe/we believe.](#)

Government Response - “Strike a balance”

- There is no balance. 365 days of fireworks v 365 nights’ curfew
- There is not ONE day free of fireworks, not even Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Day.
- Fireworks can come completely out of the blue and cause distress to people and animals.

Government Response - “The government believe the majority use fireworks at appropriate” times

- There is no data to support this statement. There is no information as to “appropriate times”? There are only legal times 7am-11pm 365 days a year.

Government Response - “Highly regulated and restricted sales”

- Only Supply, storage, possession and misuse are ‘highly’ regulated.
- No regulation to prevent use from 7am to 11pm, 365 days a year.
- Checks on retailers are limited due to [Trading Standards cuts](#)

Government Response - “The curfew is enforced by the police”

- Some police forces [unaware of legislation](#), refer public to Environmental Health
- Police do not have resources to send officers.

Government Response - BEIS admits “120Db too loud for some animals”

- [Blue Cross](#) says every year thousands of animals of animals will suffer
- Don't ignore your dog if it is scared of fireworks, says Dogs Trust as it warns [previous advice has been wrong](#)
- [AWA 2006](#) and Firework legislation are NOT protecting animals. it is impossible to get [evidence required](#).
- [Horses died in 2017](#), NFU say [farm animals](#) at risk too.

Modern day garden size

- Many are not big enough re [required distances](#) under [The Highways Act](#) “use no closer than 50ft from center of highway”.
[Many gardens are not big enough](#) even for [F2 fireworks](#) or to meet the [manufacturers guidelines](#).

And finally, **Right hand, Left hand:** Whilst one Government dept. (BEIS) tells us in a meeting not to mention terrorism as it is not an issue.... another government dept. is sending out [leaflets](#) to supermarkets and garden centers warning of the dangers of terrorism. Did BEIS not know about the leaflet?

If there is any further information we can provide to ensure the Parliamentary Members have the full story behind this campaign/petition, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Links

[FAB Website](#) [Full Report 2016](#) [Exec Summary 2016](#)
[Addendum to Report 2018](#)

Contact at FAB

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NB There are NO other leisure activity/pastime/hobby/, that people indulge in, (just for fun) that impacts on other people, in any way like fireworks, used at random times throughout the year.