

Firework ABatement Campaign



Parliamentary debate: 6th June 2016, 4.30PM

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/109702>

April 2016

W: <http://catherinewheel.wix.com/fab-campaign>

Executive Summary

The petition to be debated on June 6th 2016 4.30pm

Petition no. 109702 is as follows: Restrict the use of fireworks to reduce stress and fear in animals and pets. Fireworks now occur at all times of the day and evening for many weeks during the autumn and winter. Pet and animal owners struggle to keep their companion animals safe during this extended period.

We call for fireworks use by the general public to be permitted on traditional celebration dates only. The need for reform of the Firework Regulations (2004) has been recognised by a number of organisations and charities. Current regulations are outdated and largely ineffective and we are calling for the improved regulation of fireworks use in the UK.

The petition calls for the regulations to change and asks the government to restrict firework use by the general public to the traditional dates around the Guy Fawkes, New Years Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year celebrations

Introduction

In our report we show the distress caused to people and animals by the use of fireworks on many days and nights during the autumn and winter of each year.

We have gathered information to support our petition from surveys, polls, statements sent in by the public and Freedom of Information Requests sent to UK Police Forces.

Against this background, three findings in particular have drawn our attention.

1. Firework use cannot be classed as a personal freedom. There is nothing personal about fireworks. They can be felt and heard over great distances and negatively affect many people and animals.
2. Online shopping has changed how readily available fireworks have become. Restricting sales and licencing of year round outlets has no effect at all in 2016 on availability, anyone can buy anything, anytime. This includes fireworks.
3. Fireworks can have a direct negative affect on this more vulnerable within society, be it those with a physical condition or a mental health issue. Random fireworks have the ability to worsen illness.

Aims

The overall aim of this petition is to reduce the incidence of random and unexpected back garden fireworks by enhancing the current regulation for firework use by the general public so that (unlicenced 'adult') firework celebrations are permitted only on certain days and dates of the year.

Reach

This petition has gained signatures from every single constituency in the UK, even though it has had no national coverage in the newspapers or on television. Contrary to popular belief, it is not only pet owners who are affected by the random use of fireworks. Our findings are that people with the following conditions, mental health issues, epilepsy, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and anyone on the autism spectrum are greatly impacted by unexpected fireworks. We have also been contacted by veterans, parents of young children, shift workers and carers of elderly parents who have all expressed support.

Support

Our campaign is supported by a number of high profile individuals, organisations and charities. These include, but not restricted to Baroness Jenny Jones, Deputy Mayoress of London, Gary Streeter MP, Henry Smith MP, Corri Wilson MP, the RSPCA, the SSPCA, and many smaller charities. BVA - The British Veterinary Association are also calling for changes in firework law.

Key Facts

- It is recognised that fireworks have a negative effect on people with some medical conditions
- Over the firework 'season' The RSPCA report a 35% increase in calls from the public since 2011 (2015 figures)
- Fireworks are used 365 days a year, 366 this year.
- In some areas there were only 7 single days free from fireworks between October 2015 and January 2016.
- During the six months of the petition nearly 100 separate firework incidents have been reported in the newspapers.
- Online shopping and the proliferation of retail outlets and garden centres who stock year round fireworks have increased the availability.
- In a general Facebook survey 94.95% of people said they would like to see restrictions in residential fireworks, even though 49.44% of the same people said that fireworks did not cause anyone in their household a problem.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The problem is RANDOM UNEXPECTED firework use, in back garden type situations, by the general public. Responsible use does not extend to informing neighbours.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

RANDOM, UNEXPECTED fireworks cannot be prepared for. People with certain medical conditions, and pet owners would be able to prepare themselves and their animals if they knew when to expect fireworks. The 'creeping firework season' makes this impossible.

WHEN THIS IS A PROBLEM

Fireworks are not, as some people believe, merely a problem that can be managed as it occurs around 5th November and New Year's Eve. Increasingly fireworks are being used to celebrate other occasions such as birthdays, weddings, and even in some cases funerals, alongside any other event or even "just because". This is currently legal in the UK where the law allows firework use 365 days a year from 7am up to 11pm with some extensions for recognised traditional dates.

71% of the reports/complaints to police happened within the hours that it is legally permissible to set off fireworks, i.e. between 7am and 11pm (or midnight/1am for traditional dates).

HOW CAN WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

To solve this problem the government should restrict back garden fireworks to traditional dates.

Allowing displays and organised events to continue, being the safer option and the best advertised. This will allow preparations to be made by the many people who are affected and will also please the other people who are just plain fed up of constant fireworks. By allowing certain days/dates of use those who do enjoy fireworks can continue to do so, without distressing the long suffering public, many of whom have, to date, been relatively unheard.

Our full report is below. We would be pleased if you could read prior to attending the debate on 6th June 2016 at 4.30pm

Foreword

I started this petition having heard of two incidents in which friends horses were put to sleep due to injuries sustained during unexpected fireworks. The title of the petition has I believe, lessened its impact. It was written that way as my whole network on social media was animal based. However, in the last six months, I have heard many stories of how firework use affects not only animals **but more importantly people**, who to date, have yet to be heard.



Although this was a campaign on social media only, with no national newspaper or TV coverage, 104,038 people have signed the petition. Had this e-petition been able to run alongside a paper petition the number of people reached would have been much higher, only 1 in 3 people are involved with social media. I believe this shows the strength of feeling amongst the general public.

The campaign has never been about banning the use of fireworks, but about adopting a commonsense approach, between those people who enjoy fireworks and those whose lives are severely affected by unexpected fireworks. Firework availability in the UK is now driven by advertising and all-year-round internet sales and high street stores dedicated to the sales of fireworks. The current firework regulations are no longer effective for the control of firework use.

As long ago as **2004** the government spoke about “*curtailing the creeping expansion of the season*”. In the past 12 years I believe it has crept far enough,¹ indeed it has moved forward to such a degree that it has now encompassed all of the winter months.

In the same document in 2004 the government said,

*“The Government has recently introduced a number of measures to regulate the supply, possession and use of fireworks under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 and the Fireworks Act 2003. The introduction of any further measures at this time would be premature given the recent changes to the Regulations. **We will, however, keep the effectiveness of the new measures under constant review.**”*

I believe it is now time to review.

Restrict back garden fireworks to traditional dates.

¹ <http://bit.ly/1SbtEQE>

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this report we show the distress caused to people and animals by the use of fireworks on many days and nights during the autumn and winter of each year and we present our findings as a basis of the case to revise the existing 'Firework Regulations 2004 Regulation 7.'

We will explain the petition and what it is trying to achieve, the process and tools we have used in order to gather information. This information will clearly show that fireworks are not just used at expected times , i.e. 5th November, 31st December, Diwali and Chinese New Year but all times in between with increasing regularity in some areas of the country.

We have gathered the information to support our petition from surveys, polls, statements sent in from the public and Freedom of Information requests sent to UK police forces. We will also show the support the petition has gained and the fact that it is supported in every single constituency of the UK.

Against this background, three findings in particular have drawn our attention

1. Firework use cannot be classed as a personal freedom. There is nothing personal about fireworks. They can be felt and heard over great distances and negatively affect many people and animals.
2. Online shopping has changed how readily available fireworks have become. Restricting retail sales and licensing of year round outlets has NO effect at all in 2016 on availability, anyone can buy anything, anytime. This includes fireworks.
3. Fireworks can have a direct negative affect on those more vulnerable within society, be it those with a physical condition or a mental health issue. Random fireworks have the ability to worsen illness.

1.1. The Petition

Petition no. 109702 is as follows:

“Restrict the use of fireworks to reduce stress and fear in animals and pets”

Fireworks now occur at all times of the day and evening for many weeks during the autumn and winter. Pet and animal owners struggle to keep their companion animals safe during this extended period. We call for fireworks use by the general public, in back garden type situations, to be permitted on traditional celebration dates only.

The need for reform of the Firework Regulations (2004) has been recognised by a number of organizations and charities. Current regulations are outdated and largely ineffective and we are calling for the improved regulation of fireworks use in the UK. The petition calls for the regulations to change and asks the government to restrict firework use by the general public to the traditional dates around the Guy Fawkes, New Years Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year celebrations

1.2. The Aims

The overall aim of this petition is to reduce the incidence of random and unexpected, back garden fireworks by enhancing the current regulation for firework use by the general public so that (unlicensed 'adult') firework celebrations are permitted only on certain days & dates of the year. These days & dates will include our traditional celebrations, the week of the 5th November, Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year. This will allow for individuals who gain great pleasure from fireworks to continue to do so. It also allows people who have certain medical conditions, those who suffer fear and stress from firework noise to take precautions to protect themselves. Pet owners and those who are responsible for livestock will also benefit from knowing the dates when fireworks are permitted.

1.3. Process

Alongside collecting signatures for the petition, we have been collecting data from a number of sources to illustrate the issues. These include reported incidences of fireworks, surveys of the general public, (on facebook, outside the FAB group), freedom of information requests to UK police forces and statements from the general public, these will all demonstrate why this is such an important issue.

This petition having obtained 104,038 signatures has moved to the next stage, debate.

The 6th of June 2016 at 4.30pm has been given for the petition to be debated in the house.

1.4. Significance

Of all the petitions currently awaiting debate and those debated this political term there are only three petitions that are not about public services or political issues. This is one of them, this clearly shows that the negative impact of fireworks is a bigger issue than previously thought.

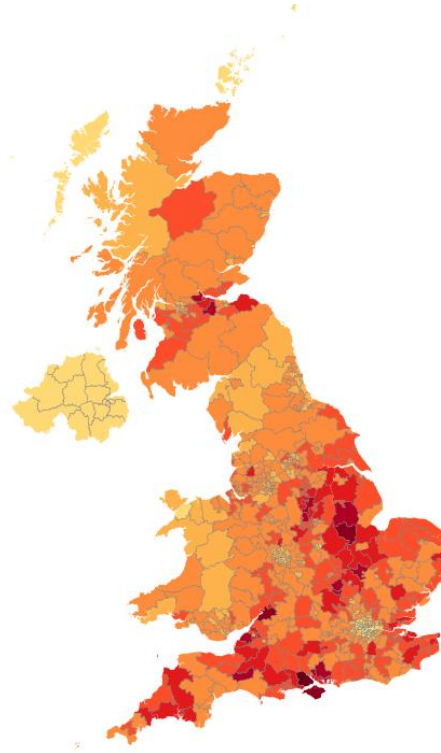
Firework use cannot be classed as a personal freedom, for people to use whenever they feel like it. It causes huge distress to a large number of people. Most of these people have had no voice and possibly felt alone in their distress, until now. Their only recourse to write to their council or MP and one letter was certainly not going to provoke change. A firework party affects people over a large area, (how large cannot be tested easily as buildings and open space would change the readings every time.) Imagine though, an explosion of 120db on a housing estate built in the 60s. Houses close together, blocks of flats and very small gardens. This would certainly rattle the windows. Do we think it is fair for people to be invaded by sound in their own homes to such an extent? There is nothing personal about fireworks. They can be felt and heard over great distances and negatively affect many people and animals.

One persons fun should not be allowed to make another persons life a misery

1.5. Reach

Soon after the petition started it became obvious that we were attracting signatures from all parts of the country and from people in all walks of life. The petition has signatures in every constituency in the UK as can be seen on the petition heat map.

Petition HEAT map



Contrary to popular belief, it is not only pet owners who are affected by the random use of fireworks. Our findings are that people with the following conditions, mental health issues, epilepsy, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and anyone on the autism spectrum are greatly impacted by unexpected fireworks. We have also been contacted by veterans, parents of young children, shift workers and carers of elderly parents who have all expressed support.

This word cloud shows words frequently used in communications from the public.



Sudden and unexpected loud noises cause unwelcome symptoms for people with certain medical conditions. We have researched these effects and found that most people are able to manage the symptoms/conditions if given enough time to plan, for instance, adjust medication, plan an evening away or put on their headphones and settle down for a night of box sets. ([Appendix A](#))

"I suffer with tinnitus and loud noises actually hurt my ears."

"My husband is hearing impaired and wears two digital aids but he can't for the majority of the autumn and winter. He either has to grab them out of his ears when fireworks start unexpectedly or he doesn't wear them. This causes huge communication problems."

"I have complex PTSD and autism. For many reasons fireworks are distressing to me, Autism means that I find loud noises distressing, especially when there is no escape from them. Complex PTSD means that I startle easily to loud noises especially when they come out of the blue and are unexpected."

1.6. Support

Our campaign is supported by a number of high profile individuals, organizations and charities. These include, but not restricted to Baroness Jenny Jones, Deputy Mayoress of London, Gary Streeter MP, Henry Smith MP, Corri Wilson MP, the RSPCA, the SSPCA, and many smaller charities. The BVA are also calling for changes in firework law. [\(Appendix B\)](#)

SSPCA - Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Chief Superintendent, Mike Flynn says:

"Current legislation is so relaxed that fireworks can easily be misused and set off on any given day rather than being limited to major festival periods such as Bonfire Night and New Year.

"This leaves pet owners and farmers unable to make adequate provisions for their animals.
[\(Letters Appendix G\)](#)

RSPCA Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal says:

"Whilst it is possible for owners to help their pets cope with the short term stress of fireworks, not knowing when firework events will be happening can make it difficult for owners to prepare in advance." [\(Letters Appendix H\)](#)

Also key points from their latest press release state,

The RSPCA supports calls to restrict the private use of fireworks to certain traditional dates such as November 5th, New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali.

Fireworks can be a source of fear and distress for many animals. This can have a considerable negative effect on their welfare.

The current legislative framework, primarily the Fireworks Act 2003 and Fireworks Regulations 2004, has had some success in restricting the private display of fireworks. We would like to see it go further.

BVA – British Veterinary Association says:

"BVA has concerns about the impact of the firework noise on animal welfare. The noise from loud fireworks can cause distress for all kinds of animals (including companion animals, wildlife and farm animals). " [\(Letters Appendix F\)](#)

DOGS TRUST says:

"The charity believe it is a significant issue affecting dog owners and hopes the outcome of the debate will reflect this – a recent Dogs Trust survey of 3,750 pet owners showed that two-thirds of dogs are worried by fireworks and that 93% of their owners alter their routine at the time of firework celebrations to try to minimise the trauma on their pets."

Since reaching the 100,000 signatures, we have had coverage on television, several local newspapers across the country and have been interviewed for local radio shows. The feed back from these media appearances has been 95% positive.

There have been close to 100 firework incidents reported in the press since the petition started in October 2015. Of those stories 41 of them were about people being hurt or frightened by fireworks, 10 of the stories were about animals. Of the 98 stories 59 were classed as illegal use ie between 11pm and 7am) and in 39 of the incidents the use was classed as legal use which is 7am to 11pm (with extensions on traditional days). (*Appendix E*)

Here are just 6 of them.

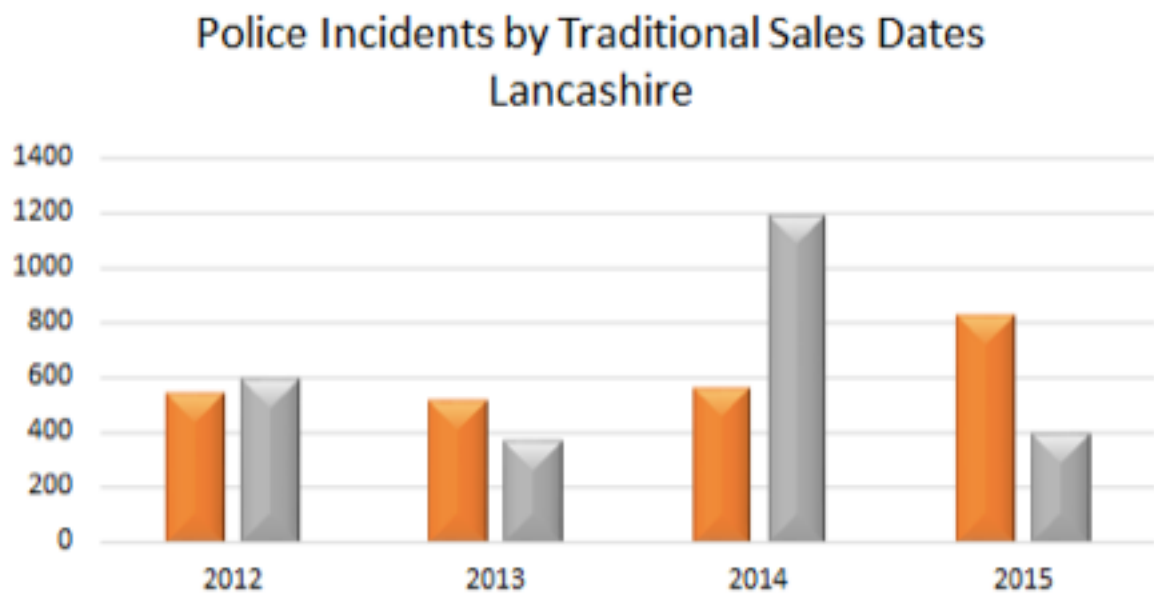
Firework Related Incidents

SOURCE	DATE	COMMENT	WEB LINK
Cambridge News	06/11/2015	Huntingdon man has finger blown off in firework accident on Halloween	http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Huntingdon-man-finger-blown-firework-accident/story-28126868-detail/story.html
Hull Daily Mail	12/11/2015	Family warning after little Maisie Kay burned after being hit by 100-shot Illusion Missile Firework	http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Family-warning-little-Maisie-Kay-burned-hit-100/story-28158621-detail/story.html
Belfast Live	15/12/2015	Six children hurt by fireworks this Halloween in Northern Ireland	http://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/six-children-hurt-fireworks-halloween-10601808
Shepton Mallet Journal	30/12/2015	Hundreds back search for missing Leigh-on-Mendip dog Chaos	http://www.sheptonmalletjournal.co.uk/Hundreds-search-missing-Leigh-Mendip-dog-Chaos/story-28440588-detail/story.html
London Fire Brigade	01/01/2016	Stray firework sparks blaze at Romford fencing company	http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/LatestIncidentsContainer_01011630.asp#VqolmPmLTiU
Express & Star	02/02/2016	Fireworks factory tragedy: Inquests delayed until March	http://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-news/2016/02/02/fireworks-factory-tragedy-inquests-delayed/

1.7. Key Facts

- It is recognised that fireworks have a negative effect on people with some medical conditions
- Over the firework 'season' The RSPCA report a 35% increase in calls from the public since 2011 (2015 figures)
- Fireworks are used 365 days a year, 366 this year.
- In some areas there was only 7 single days free from fireworks between October 2015 and January 2016.

- During the six months of the petition nearly 100 separate firework incidents have been reported in the newspapers. ([Appendix E](#))
- Online shopping and the proliferation of retail outlets and garden centres who stock year round fireworks has increased availability outside of the traditional sales dates. We can see by the graph below the volume of incidents recorded by the police in Lancashire. (Orange shows Traditional Sales Dates and Grey shows Outside Traditional Sales Dates).



- In a general Facebook survey 94.95% of people said they would like to see restrictions in residential fireworks, even though 49.44% of the same people said that fireworks did not cause anyone in their household a problem.



- This petition is the only one to be debated since the start of this parliament, that has had no national press coverage and that is not about national issues such as education, NHS, politics, immigration etc.

2. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The problem is RANDOM UNEXPECTED firework use, by the general public in a back garden type situation. Responsible use does not extend to neighbours informing others and in fact it would be almost impossible to get to every neighbour who may or may not be affected, who may or may not hear or feel the fireworks. All these factors would depend on the weather conditions on the day and of course the type of fireworks used.

"We have an Autistic son who gets very distressed when there are unexpected fireworks."

"In January, he was sleeping in our kitchen , as the guests left the party next door they let off fireworks. Harvey (dog) took a massive fit and stopped breathing, the emergency vet revived him but he never fully came out of the fit. He was put to sleep as he was brain dead. He was three years old"

The petition calls for the dates fireworks are allowed to be used by the general public, in a back garden type situation to be restricted to 'traditional dates' as recognised by the government in regulation 7 of the 2004 Firework Act. That being, the night of Diwali (moveable date), the week of the 5th of November (in order to include one weekend), New Years Eve and Chinese New Year (moveable date). All with the current time extensions as in regulation 7 Firework Act 2004.

3. WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Random unexpected fireworks cause a variety of problems for people for a range of reasons. For example people who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of events that occurred during time spent on active duty in the armed forces can suffer terrible reactions to fireworks. The same is true for people who have had other traumatic encounters such as road traffic accidents, abuse, or rape. Furthermore people with medical conditions such as ADHD- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or mental health conditions are often unable to cope with the noise and light generated by fireworks.

Alongside this many people who keep pets, or other livestock are unable to adequately prepare for the reactions that random fireworks trigger in their animals. Whilst many pet and animal owners do not wish to see a total ban on the use of fireworks (and indeed may even enjoy visiting organized displays) it is unacceptable when the level of random fireworks rises to the point that they feel unable to leave their livestock unattended because of the potential for fireworks, and the harm that this may cause to the animals.

This may to some sound simply like conjecture and hearsay, and we are well aware that some people think we are no more than party poopers who wish to stop them using fireworks and restrict their freedom. However this is not the case and we have a substantial amount of data to back this up as the paragraphs below illustrate.

RANDOM, UNEXPECTED fireworks cannot be prepared for. People with certain medical conditions ([Appendix A](#)) and pet owners would be able to prepare themselves and their animals if they knew when to expect fireworks. The 'creeping firework season' makes this impossible.

"There are several different triggers for Trigeminal Neuralgia attacks one of which is sudden loud noises and explosions. Knowing when there are going to be loud noises and explosions (the resonance of the explosion can add to the problem of triggers) is helpful, I can take additional medication in preparation and can keep somewhere safer to avoid the loud noise."

"I had to stay on strong steroid medication and oxygen and nebulisers right Through September to the end of January! this is all down to the stress of constant and unexpected fireworks and the pollution in the air."

When a person has a negative reaction to sudden loud noises (fireworks) the precautions they need to take have to be BEFORE the first firework is heard. For instance, in their own homes they should not be expected to walk around with headphones on the loudest setting for the duration of the autumn and winter or their hearing aid removed, just in case.

"For me, it brings back the awful memories of back during the second world war, when my family had to hide underneath the table when the planes were going overhead."

"Myself and my family were at the Shoreham Air show and witnessed the terrible crash of the Hawker Hunter. I have suffered panic attacks and flash backs, I jump at loud and unexpected noise, I guess I have a form of PTSD. I can cope with planned displays."

If an animal needs to be sedated this cannot be done as the first firework goes off. It is too late by then. Sedation or any of the other advised precautions need to be in advance. Obviously an animal cannot be sedated every night of the 'firework season' just in case.

"Now, I am not a party pooper, I don't expect the world to dance to my tune but I do think compromise has a lot going for it... We know we can expect fireworks on certain nights of the year and that is great for those who enjoy them and we can prepare.. it is the element of surprise (or maybe not so these days) of the days in between. The randomness of the onslaught is both stressful and inconvenient for all concerned. It affects social interaction in that none of us feel able to leave the house of an evening during this extended period for fear of what we might meet when we return. chewed kitchen door. Faeces, urine and vomit , all fear induced reactions from a perfectly normally and well behaved dog the rest of the year."

"My other horse was injured trying to escape the field due to prolonged fireworks (they are kept at home on 10 acres, but still far too close to neighbouring properties for the firework noise level that is deemed acceptable by law."

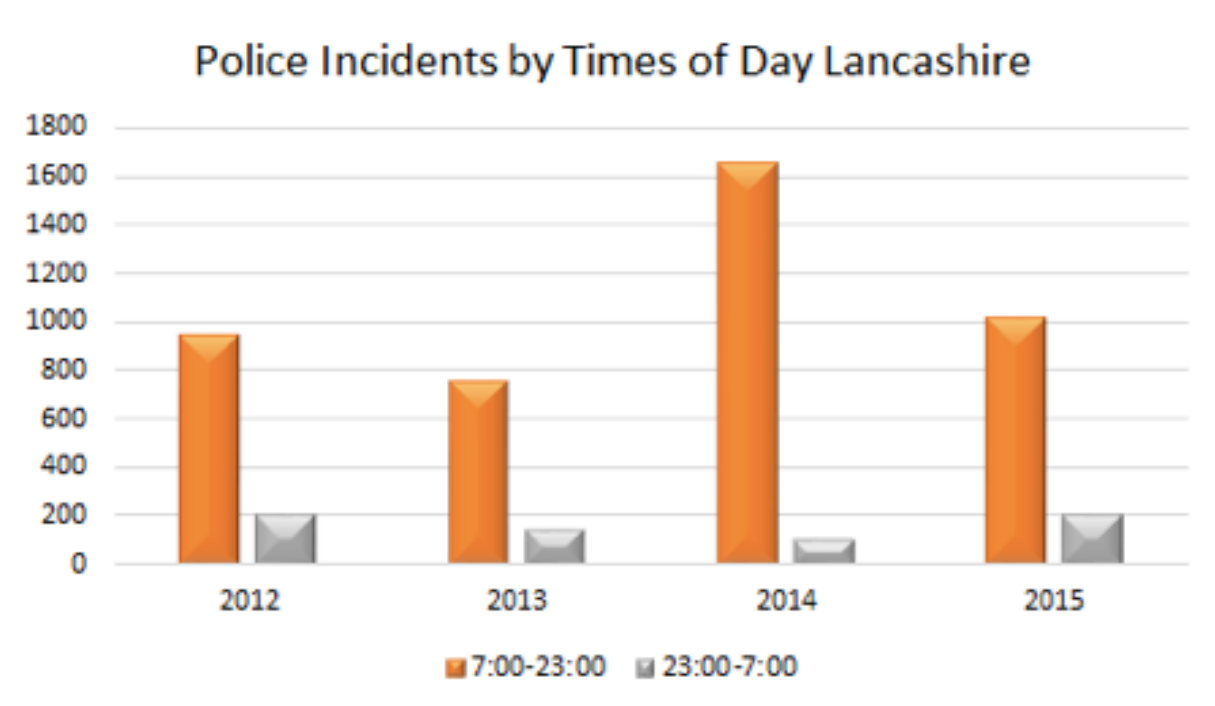
Many pet owners change their lifestyle during the winter months to accommodate 'possible' fireworks. They don't feel they can risk leaving their animals in case fireworks start unexpectedly. This is borne out by the results of a survey by The Dogs Trust.

"The charity believe it is a significant issue affecting dog owners and hopes the outcome of the debate will reflect this – a recent Dogs Trust survey of 3,750 pet owners showed that two-thirds of dogs are worried by fireworks and that 93% of their owners alter their routine at the time of firework celebrations to try to minimise the trauma on their pets."

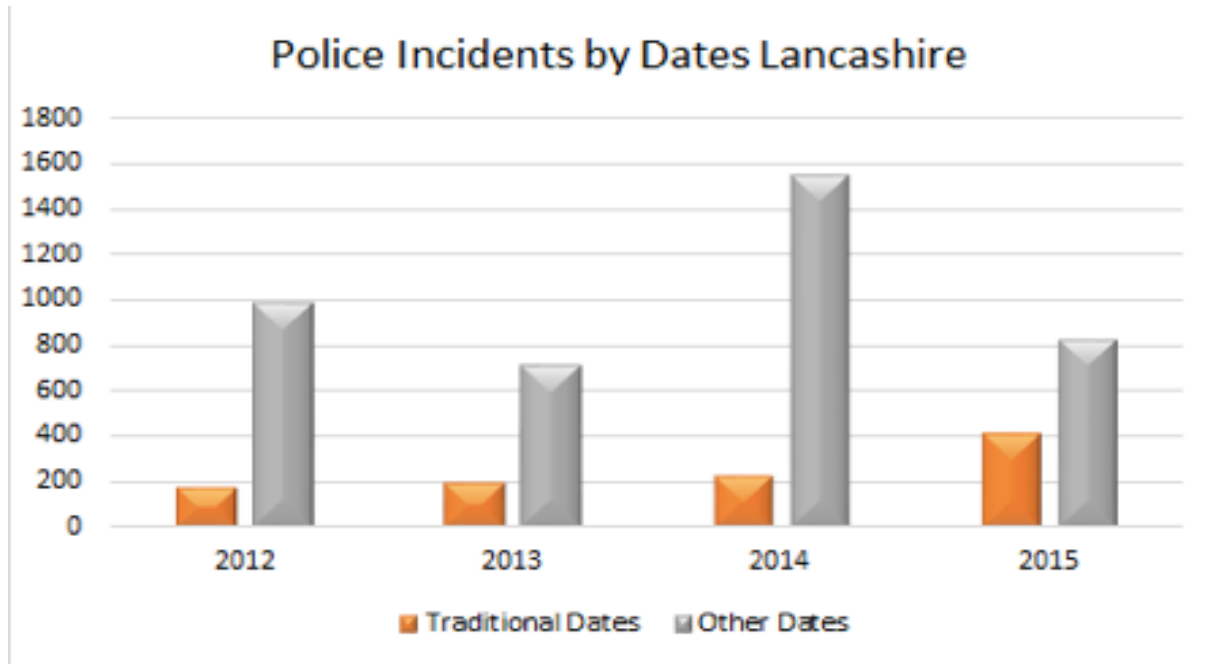
4. WHEN THIS IS A PROBLEM

The survey and the firework reports show that the UK, public are generally tolerant of firework use during traditional times. In order to confirm this we made freedom of information requests to all UK police forces. The replies show that the greatest problem/complaints are when fireworks are in 'legal' use, outside of traditional dates. (FOI Appendix D, Firework Reports Appendix C)

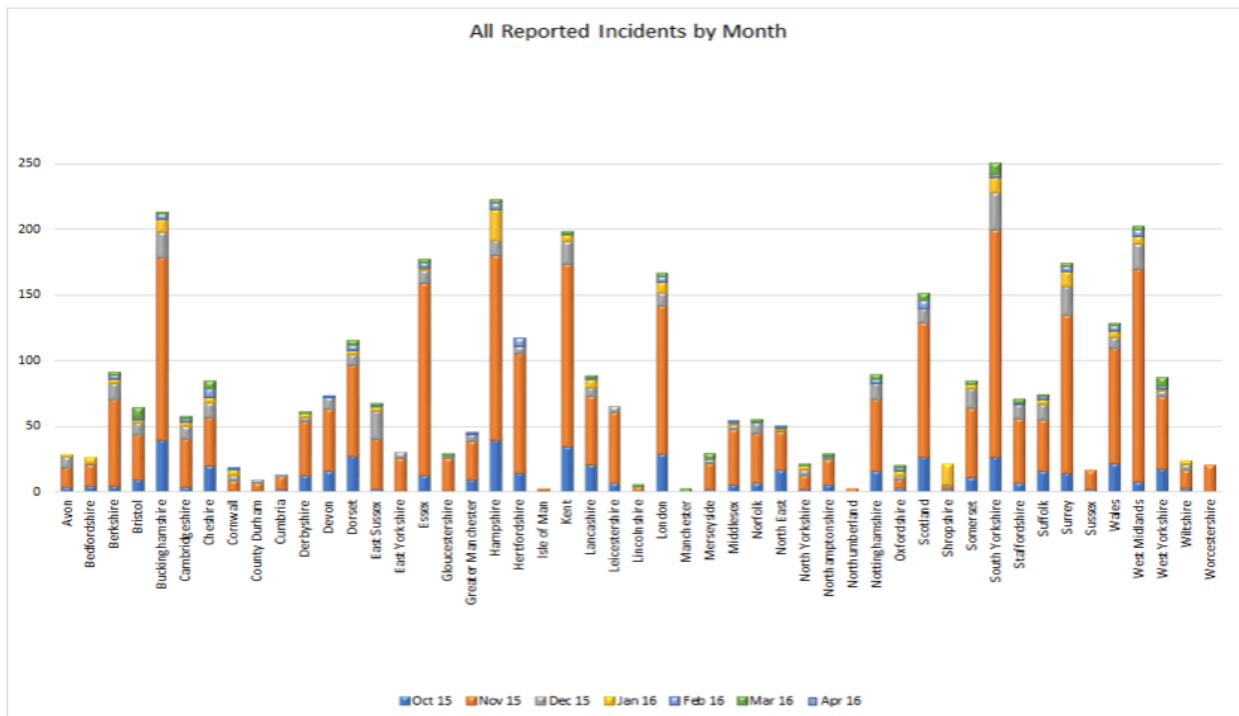
71% of the reports/complaints to police happened within the hours that it is legally permissible to set off fireworks, i.e. between 7am and 11pm (or midnight/1am for traditional dates). (FOI Appendix D)



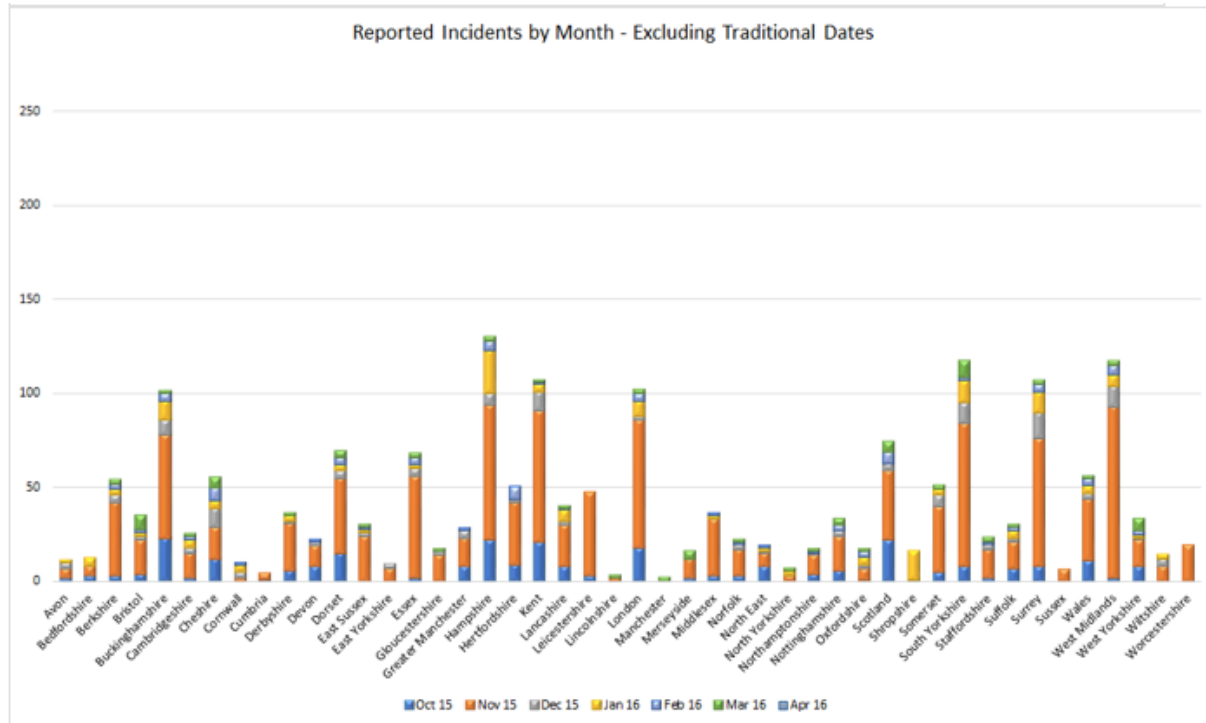
The graph above clearly indicates more incidents reported during permissible hours 7am to 11pm



The graph above clearly indicates more incidents reported during non traditional dates



The graph above shows the number of incidents involving firework use reported to the campaign during the period the petition was live 2/10 - 2/4. NB there are no incidents that have been duplicated for the same postcode.



(Appendix C). The graph above takes the above information and reflects the use reported to us of fireworks outside of the traditional dates. The same parameters apply

Present UK law means that your neighbour is fully entitled to use fireworks whenever they want, 365 days a year up to 11pm with extensions on traditional days. Although the suggestion is that, responsible use is the norm, and other people should be informed, this very rarely happens as shown in this survey question. Out of 768 who answered the survey question. "Do your neighbours or other local people inform you when they are planning fireworks,"

737 out of 768 said their neighbours do not inform them when they are planning fireworks.



6th April – "I live in a really tiny village and there has just been a huge.. HUGE firework display at the village hall which is right next to my house. No warning at all. My heart is kind of jumping all over the place as I have bad anxiety anyway but my poor dog Mr. Penguin is a shivering wreck. The bangs were so loud the windows were rattling. There are sheep in the field next to the hall not to mention birds nesting. I am only thankful it wasn't an hour earlier when I was out with my dog because he would have bolted for sure never to be seen again. I am sick with anger."

5. HOW CAN WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

As we have demonstrated in this report, random firework use is a problem for people and for animals. We have to question whether it is acceptable that this has reached the level where people do not feel safe in their own homes, where they cannot benefit from the peaceful enjoyment that they would like and where the negative impacts on them and their loved ones can be catastrophic.

The remedy for rectifying this lies with a very simple amendment to UK law (and without “spoiling the fun” with a total ban on fireworks). The paragraphs below explain what we think is the best approach to this.

To solve this problem the government should restrict back garden fireworks to traditional dates. Allowing displays and organised events to continue, being the safer option and the best advertised. This will allow preparations to be made by the many people who are affected and will also please the other people who are just plain fed up of constant fireworks. By allowing certain days/dates of use those who do enjoy fireworks can continue to do so, without distressing the long suffering public, many of whom have, to date, been relatively unheard.

Fireworks Act 2003 regulation 2

Power to make regulations about fireworks

- (1) *The Secretary of State may by regulations (“fireworks regulations”) make any provision which the Secretary of State considers appropriate—*
 - (a) *for securing that **there is no** risk that use of fireworks will have the consequences specified in subsection (2), or*
 - (b) *for securing that the risk that the use of fireworks will have those consequences is the minimum that is compatible with their being used.*
- (2) *The consequences are—*
 - (a) *death of persons or injury, alarm, distress or anxiety to persons,*
 - (b) *death of animals or injury or distress to animals, and*
 - (c) *destruction of, or damage to, property.*
- (3) *Before making fireworks regulations the Secretary of State must consult—*
 - (a) *[the Health and Safety Executive],*

- (b) *organisations which appear to the Secretary of State to be representative of interests substantially affected by the proposal, and*
 - (c) *other persons whom the Secretary of State considers it appropriate to consult.*
- (4) *Before making fireworks regulations the Secretary of State must issue a full regulatory impact assessment setting out details of the costs and benefits and the wider economic, social and environmental impact of the proposed regulations.*
- (5) *But subsection (3) does not apply if the regulations are to—*
 - (a) *cease to have effect at the end of the period of not more than twelve months beginning with the day on which they come into force, and*
 - (b) *contain a statement that it appears to the Secretary of State that the need to protect the public requires that the regulations should be made without delay.*
- (6) *The power to make fireworks regulations includes power—*
 - (a) *to make different provision for different cases, and*
 - (b) *to make any incidental, supplementary, consequential and transitional provision which the Secretary of State considers appropriate.*
- (7) *Section 18 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (c. 43) (power to require information for deciding whether to make, vary or revoke regulations under section 11 of that Act) applies in relation to fireworks regulations as in relation to regulations under section 11 of that Act.*
- (8) *Nothing in this Act shall be construed as in any way limiting the provision that may be made in regulations under section 11 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.*

A huge percentage of the UK public are law abiding and therefore the problem will reduce by the same percentage, as those people will abide by the new law.

6. ANSWERING SOME COMMON REPLIES

We would like to answer some of the replies that our members have received from MPs.

MP - *"Suppliers who wish to sell fireworks outside the traditional periods must comply with stringent conditions before being granted a licence by their local licensing authority. This means the availability and use of fireworks outside the traditional periods has been greatly reduced."*

Availability has increased with internet shopping.

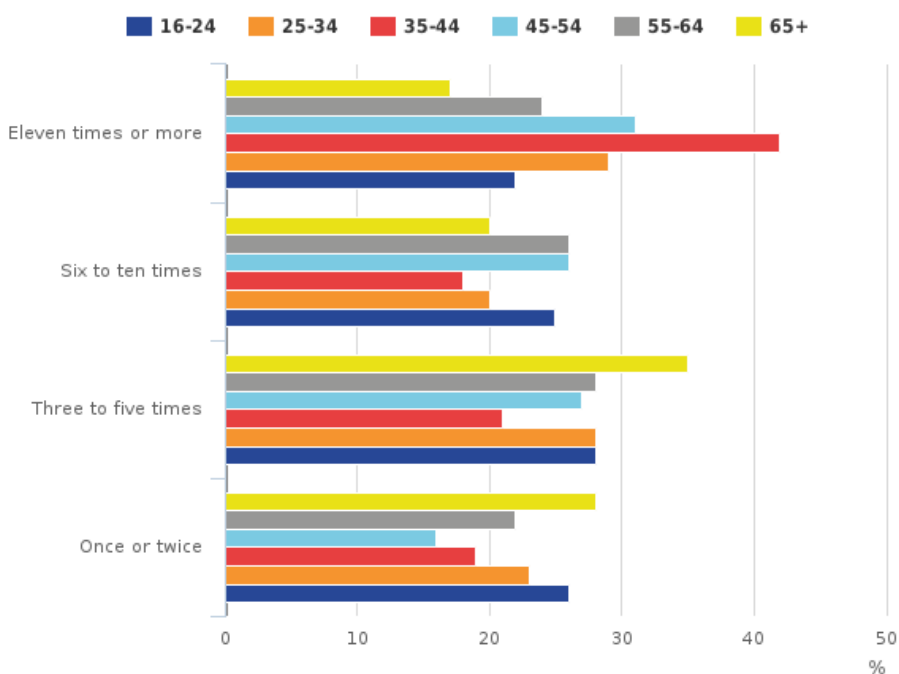
In 2015, 76% of adults bought goods or services online, up from 53% in 2008."(ONS) A very large percentage of the UK population now shop online. Internet plus home delivery have therefore increased availability. The stringent conditions that suppliers have to comply with doesn't stop there being a shop in every town selling fireworks all year long. We are also aware of many people stockpiling fireworks.

EPIC FIREWORKS - RETAIL ONLINE SALES BUSINESS - "We have created the EPIC division of our wholesale business in response to a **rapidly expanding customer base** looking for premium fireworks at the lowest possible prices. EPIC will grow and develop in line with the demands of this sector."

From Office of National Statistics (August 2015)

Frequency of internet purchasing, by age group, 2015, Great Britain

During the last three months (ie May-July 2015) This graph shows that approx 42% of adults aged 36-44 bought online 11 or more times in three months.



MP - *"The regulations also created a curfew preventing the use of fireworks between 11.00pm and 7.00am all year round with the exception of 5 November, when the curfew starts at 12 midnight, and New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali, when the curfew starts at 1.00 am on the night of celebration".*

In fact, these regulations permit the use of fireworks all the year round and at any time except between 11.00pm and 7.00am.

There are virtually no restrictions on fireworks use by the general public. Anyone can use fireworks on private property anywhere even immediately adjacent to a public place or a neighbouring paddock!

MP - *"We understand concerns about the distress noisy fireworks can cause to pets, livestock and wildlife. This is one of the reasons that there is a noise level limit of 120 decibels on fireworks for home use. We realise, however, that even at this level fireworks noise can be distressing to some animals and refer owners to advice on keeping animals safe during fireworks periods. This is freely available from animal charities, such as the Blue Cross which gives both general and species-specific advice on its website."*

We have been advised that 120 decibels is close to the pain threshold for human hearing. It is impossible to protect animals from this level of fireworks noise which can occur over many weeks or months. Advice about protecting animals from fireworks noise is useless unless we know when the noise will occur. The British Veterinary Association also calling for a decrease in noise levels in fireworks. [\(Appendix F\)](#)

It should be noted in 'FAQs Fireworks Legislation – Safety and Anti-social Use 2004', that in Q7. "Will the government do something about noise caused by fireworks?" The answer states that "as the government have introduced a curfew on the use of fireworks during night hours (11pm – 7am) and have also imposed a 120 decibel limit on category 3 fireworks (consumer display fireworks). In addition to these statutory measures the fireworks industry have pledged to work to achieve a lower level of between 113 and 115 decibel."

This has not yet happened and the Government currently state there are no changes planned, why has this not been followed up with the fireworks industry or the Government? We are also aware that the BVA are calling for a reduction in the decibel level of fireworks, as a group of professionals who work with animals this should be taken into consideration.

MP - *"In addition there is Government-sponsored advice and guidance on the safe and considerate use of fireworks on the Safer Fireworks website. From the ROSPA website.".....**Although fireworks are fun for us, they are not fun for animals. Most animals get very scared by the lights and noise, so you should take precautions to protect your pets during the times of the year when fireworks are likely to be set off.....Hopefully, this curfew will keep to a minimum the times when animals and people are disturbed by fireworks.***

This curfew is NOT "keeping to a minimum" disturbances.

In order to heed this advice it would seem the public are expected to keep outdoor pets indoors for the whole of the 'creeping firework season', with curtains closed and music/tv turned up for the whole of the winter. Even if it was a practical suggestion for peoples homes, it is not something that can be done for the larger outdoor animals, horses and cows for instance, or indeed at rescue centres, kennels or farms/small holdings

MP - *"Excessive noise from fireworks, or noise during the curfew period, can be considered a statutory nuisance and local authority environmental health officers have the power to investigate complaints of fireworks noise and act to prevent it where appropriate."*

The key words here are '**during the curfew period**'. Excessive noise is excessive whenever it occurs. This legislation does nothing to control fireworks for the relief of people and animals all through, what the government themselves have called, "a creeping firework season'. Information collected on our incident website shows that it is almost **impossible to use this legislation** for complaints about fireworks noise, particularly as it needs to be accepted that most complaints are outside the curfew period and outside the traditional dates.

MP - *"Although there is some use of fireworks outside the traditional periods, we believe that the majority of people who use fireworks do so at the appropriate times of year and have a sensible and responsible attitude towards them."*

What evidence leads you to believe this?

The replies to the Freedom of information requests tell a different story to the one the government states is the case, as above.

Either, the many reports to the police (35,148 in 3 yrs) are antisocial behaviour in which case, 'not a sensible and responsible attitude' or, they are outside the 'appropriate times of year'. (50.1% occurred within dates fireworks on general sale ie. appropriate times of year.. The rest outside those dates)

7. AND FINALLY

The statement from Business, Innovations and Skills received when 10,000 signatures reached.

- ***We are aware that fireworks can cause distress to animals. Restrictions on the general public's use of fireworks, and permitted noise levels, already exist and we have no plans to extend them.***

We appreciate that the Government respond to all petitions once they reach 10,000 signatures but feel the choice of wording, "*We are aware that fireworks can cause distress to animals. Restrictions on the general public's use of fireworks, and permitted noise levels, already exist and we have no plans to extend them.*" gives the false impression that even if we reached our target of 100,000 signatures, we would not even be considered for debate. Having spoken to members and members of the general public who saw this response it was the consensus of opinion that there was little point in working on this campaign as the government had already dismissed it

P.S. As a thought..... Wouldn't this be better? Future professional displays set to music without the bangs and whistles.

"So my customer today said to me, we were on holiday in Disneyland Paris a few weeks ago and we thought of you'. 'Did you?' I asked wondering where the conversation was going and which character reminded them of me! 'Yes' she said, 'on our last day they put on a huge firework display, it lasted for ages, most spectacular one we've ever seen and the kids said they enjoyed it more than any other display they had ever seen! When we asked them why that was they replied it was because there were no bangs - just music '."

A town in Italy have started using 'silent' fireworks as a way of respecting their animals. "During firework displays animals are often confused as to where the loud noises are coming from which makes them run frantically away. Unfortunately, this sometimes results in them being hit by a car." (Appendix J)

Anyone get the feeling the UK is a bit behind everyone else??"

APPENDIX A: MEDICAL CONDITIONS & NOISE SENSITIVITY

PTSD - 1 in 3 who have traumatic experience likely to have this.

<http://www.ptsduk.org/remember-remember-those-with-ptsd/>

We've mentioned before that people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can often develop difficulties with sounds such as an exaggerated startle response, fear of sound (phonophobia), aversion to specific sounds (misophonia), and a difficulty in tolerance and volume of sounds that would not be considered loud by normal hearing individuals (hyperacusis). These issues with sound are why many PTSD sufferers find this time of year a real problem. The root cause: fireworks.

Complex PTSD

<http://www.healingfromcomplextraumaandptsd.com/#!ptsd--noise-sensitivity-/cequ>

Noise can affect those with PTSD/Complex PTSD in different ways....The PTSD Startle Reflex - which is about anxiety and loud noises and bangs etc will cause the survivor to jump and startle easily.

Combat PTSD

<http://www.healthyplace.com/blogs/understandingcombatptsd/2014/11/17/combat-ptsd-symptom-exaggerated-startle-response/>

However, when a startle stimuli reminds the person with combat PTSD of his or her trauma, the response will likely be heightened. So, while a car backfiring can startle anyone, a person with PTSD may have a startle response that causes them to "hit the deck" because it reminds him or her of enemy fire.

Hyperacusis - 7%-23% adults 12%-27% children

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hyperacusis/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Hyperacusis is the name for intolerance to everyday sounds that causes significant distress and affects a person's day-to-day activities. The condition can vary quite a lot. For example, some people find loud noises extremely uncomfortable, some find certain noises particularly annoying, some develop a fear of certain noises, while others experience pain when hearing ordinary sounds.

Misophonia - no definitive numbers

<http://www.misophonia-uk.org/faqs.html>

Misophonia literally means "extreme dislike" or "hatred" (miso-) of "sound" (-phonia). The term was coined by the US scientists Pawel and Margaret Jastreboff in 2001. The vast majority of people joining self-help groups who have an extreme reaction to everyday sounds report an intriguingly similar set of symptoms. These may vary from one person to another but generally speaking:

- * the age of onset is often around 10-12yrs old.
- * the reaction is experienced most commonly as extreme rage
- * the trigger sound can create an overwhelming fight or flight response in the sufferer, so they experience a desire to do extreme violence to the maker of the sound, or to escape the vicinity of the sound at all costs.

Phonophobia - no definitive numbers

<http://www.allaboutcounseling.com/forum/>

Phonophobia is the fear of loud noises and sounds, which can cause anxiety attacks or be a result of severe migraine headaches. A phonophobic person placed in the above situation may suffer from an [anxiety attack](#) or nausea and be forced to flee from the situation immediately.

Autism - 1 in 100

<http://www.autism.org.uk/about/family-life/holidays-trips/bonfire-night.aspx>

Bonfire night is a family occasion that brings joy to people across the UK - but for the 1 in 100 people with autism, fireworks can be anything but fun. Many parents of children with autism tell us they choose not to celebrate bonfire night because their children find it too distressing. The unexpected nature of displays can cause anxiety and stress, and for those with sensory issues, fireworks can be thunderous and blinding.

Aspergers Syndrome

<http://www.kennethrobersonphd.com/sound-sensitivity-children-aspergers-syndrome/>

There are three types of noises that children with Aspergers experience as extremely unpleasant. One of them is sudden, unexpected noises, such as a telephone ringing, a fire alarm, thunder or fireworks.

Fibromyalgia - thought to be 1 in 20

<http://fibromyalgia-facts-fictions.com/sensitivities.html>

Almost to a person, nearly every suffer of FM reports sensitivity to noise. And not just loud noises (although those seem to be the worst) it is also sudden noises (like how the commercials on TV suddenly jump up the volume) Or certain kinds of sounds, ticking, droning or other repetitive noises. But no matter what the source of the sound, nearly all FMers report intolerance to it. Often to the point of literally, pain.

OCD

<https://myocddiary.com/2010/01/04/ocd-sound-sensitivity/>

Being easily irritated to certain sounds is called: Soft Sound Sensitivity and for whatever reason, a lot of people with OCD seem to have it.

Hearing - 11,000,000 in 2015 and rising

<https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/community/blogs/our-guest-blog/top-tips-to-protect-your-hearing-on-bonfire-night.aspx>

We don't want to take the fun out of the fireworks - but exposure to loud noise above 85 decibels over time can cause permanent hearing damage. We all know fireworks are lovely to watch, but can be a pain to listen to, with some reaching an uncomfortable 120 decibels.

Stress/Anxiety

<http://www.calmclinic.com/anxiety/symptoms/hypersensitivity-to-sound>

Noise Triggers Some people develop a sensitivity to very specific sounds. ... Stress Related Tension Finally, when you're feeling anxious, it can cause pressures in ... In some cases, this may even make the noises sound louder than before.

Depression

<http://www.holistichehelp.net/blog/are-fireworks-bad-for-your-health/>

Did you know that fireworks contain a variety of chemicals that are ... The negative effects on health go way beyond a temporary inflammation of lungs in vulnerable people. ... They have also been found to cause cancer in mice and rats. ... bi-polar, **depression**, anxiety, heart disease, kidney disease, MS rheumatoid arthritis, gastrointestinal disorders, chronic fatigue and more. They disrupt the endocrine system, immune system, gastrointestinal system, metabolism, and [neurotransmitters in the brain](#).

Gastroesophageal Reflux

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/588970_4

Various studies evaluated the effect of stress on the gastrointestinal tract. More recent studies have focused on the relationship between stress and reported symptoms of GORD.^[22] There are a variety of stressors that have been used in these studies, including white noise, exposure to cold temperature, loud noises and anticipation of stressful situations such as giving a speech.

Anxiety induced incontinence

[FM/CFS/ME RESOURCES - FM Symptoms](#)

The severity of symptoms can change depending on stress levels, your This disorder causes muscle pain in the face, neck, shoulders, and back, and Bladder incontinence, urinary frequency, and painful sexual intercourse are ... Even external stressors, such as loud noises or bright lights, can trigger FM symptoms.

Ehlers Danlos Syndrome 1 in 5,000

<http://www.edhs.info/#!about1/cs05>

Understanding Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Hypermobility-Type and Joint Hypermobility Syndrome ... Originally it was thought that people with EDS-H / JHS suffered from anxiety as a reaction to the condition they were suffering from. ... can trigger an exaggerated or over-response, causing sensitivity to light and sound.

Epilepsy

<http://www.healthtalk.org/peoples-experiences/nerves-brain/epilepsy/triggering-factors>

Photosensitivity (sensitivity to flickering light) affects fewer than 5% of people with ... Certain types of sound and music triggered seizures in some people.

ME and CFS - 250,000

<http://www.ei-resource.org/illness-information/environmental-illnesses/chronic-fatigue-syndrome-cfs-myalgic-encephalopathy-me/>

Heightened Sensitivity to Light and/or Sound - Normal everyday levels of sound and light can seem overwhelming to a ME/CFS sufferer.

Alzheimers

<http://forum.alzheimers.org.uk/showthread.php?48329-Sensitivity-to-loud-noise>

For some time now she has had a sensitivity to loud noise. It appears to give her a reaction similar to being very frightened. If something is loud enough it will make her cry.

Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syncope

<http://www.dinet.org/index.php/information-resources/pots-place/pots-what-to-avoid>

Information and resources on dysautonomia and POTS related issues. ... A number of POTS patients report being overly sensitive to bright lights, loud noises and postural faint and neuropathic postural tachycardia syndrome (POTS).

Asthma 1 in 11 5.4million

<http://www.safebee.com/health/hidden-danger-fireworks>

Fireworks displays increase air pollution levels in the form of particulate matter small enough to seep into the lungs of folks with asthma and COPD. ... that can seep into the lungs and cause coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

Ankylosing Spondylitis 120,000

<http://sjogrensworld.org/forums/index.php?topic=16521.0>

Many of my senses are overly sensitive. Sound, light, smell...all get overloaded very easily. For me it started about 15 years ago with light. I had to install dimmer switches on all my lights, and I often wear sunglasses in the house.

Breathing / lung /COPD - 300,000

http://www.network-health.org/uploadedFiles/Healthwise_IX_mailers/zu1516.pdf

Fireworks smoke contains toxic dust that can irritate your lungs and can cause breathing problems. If you have a health problem that affects your breathing, air pollution such as smoke can make your breathing suddenly get worse. It can make you cough and have more mucus, and it can cause you to be short of breath. A severe COPD flare-up or asthma attack can be a life-threatening emergency. If you have a quick-relief inhaler, try using it first.

IBS/ Crohns - 115,000

<http://itoldyouiwassick.info/2011/02/22/common-causes-of-mystery-symptoms-part-1-undiagnosed-autoimmune-disease-other-chronic-conditions/>

Light and sound sensitivity ... Severe heat intolerance ... bowel diseases are irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

APPENDIX B: PETITION SUPPORT

We are aware of 374 Westminster MPs that have been contacted by their constituents with regard to this campaign. This number is climbing daily as we await responses from both members and non-members.

Of the MPs who have been contacted we have had 158 responses sent into us, this could be because the MPs have yet to reply or the member has yet to forward the information on to us. At least 70 MPs have raised the concerns of their constituents with one of the following, the relevant Minister, Local Authority or the Police Force. We are aware of several of these MPs who have indicated that they are willing to attend Parliament and debate if they have no other conflicting engagements on the 6th June 2016.

To date Henry Smith MP for Crawley, Corri Wilson MP for Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock and Gary Streeter MP for South West Devon have actively supported the petition with a further 28 expressing an interest.

Jenny Jones, Baroness Jones of Moulscumb the Deputy Mayor of London a Green Party Member has also lent her support to the campaign. The Green Party itself has also been pro-active and shared the petition.

Questions have been raised in the house regarding firework regulations by Sharon Hodgson, Shadow Minister (Education) MP for Washington and Sunderland West on 30th October 2015 and again 16th November. Dawn Butler MP for Brent Central has also raised questions to the house on the 21st March 2016.

Charities, Organizations And Companies Supporting Change In UK Firework

in writing or by sharing of the petition on social media sites.

April 2002	ANIMAL WELFARE CAMPAIGN SEEKS TO BAN FIREWORK SALES
Nov 2002	GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ASSOCIATION SEEKS TO INCREASE CONTROLS ON THE SALE AND USE OF FIREWORKS
1.11.15	WIGAN COUNCIL ASK PEOPLE TO GO TO ORGANISED EVENTS
10.11.15	LIVERPOOL ECHO CALLS FOR TIGHTER FIREWORK RULES BACKED BY RUNCORN BUSINESS WOMAN
29.12.15	BOURNEMOUTH COUNCILLOR ASKS FOR LEGISLATION TO STOP NUISANCE FIREWORKS
31.12.15	HORSE & HOUND MAGAZINE SUPPORTS PETITION
6.1.16	MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL SEEKS TO BAN THE SALE OF FIREWORKS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

7.1.16	SCOTTISH SPCA SUPPORTS MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL IN PLANS TO BAN THE SALE OF FIREWORKS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
14.1.16	MP HENRY SMITH SUPPORTS PETITION
14.1.16	SCOTTISH SPCA SUPPORTS PETITION
1.2.16	BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION Fireworks legislation to be revised in order to reduce the noise limit of fireworks
3.2.16	JENNY JONES, BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB AND DEPUTY MAYOR OF LONDON AND GREEN PARTY MEMBER SUPPORTS PETITION
25.2.16	RSPCA SUPPORTS PETITION

THE KENNEL CLUB OF GB	BORDER COLLIE RESCUE ORG
BULLDOG RESCUE	BORDER COLLIE TRUST GB
EEDY HIGHLAND TERRIER RESCUE	LABRADOR WELFARE
SPRINGER RESCUE SCOTLAND	HAPPY LANDINGS ANIMAL SHELTER
MANE CHANCE SANCTUARY	RAIN RESCUE
C.A.R.I.A.D. CAMPAIGN	EAST MIDLANDS DOG RESCUE
ANIMALS IN NEED – MAXICARE	CAT PROTECTION – Herefordshire Branch
CAT PROTECTION – Derby Branch	WAGGY TAILS RESCUE
MUNCHKINS MINIATURE SHETLAND RESCUE	WOODSIDE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST

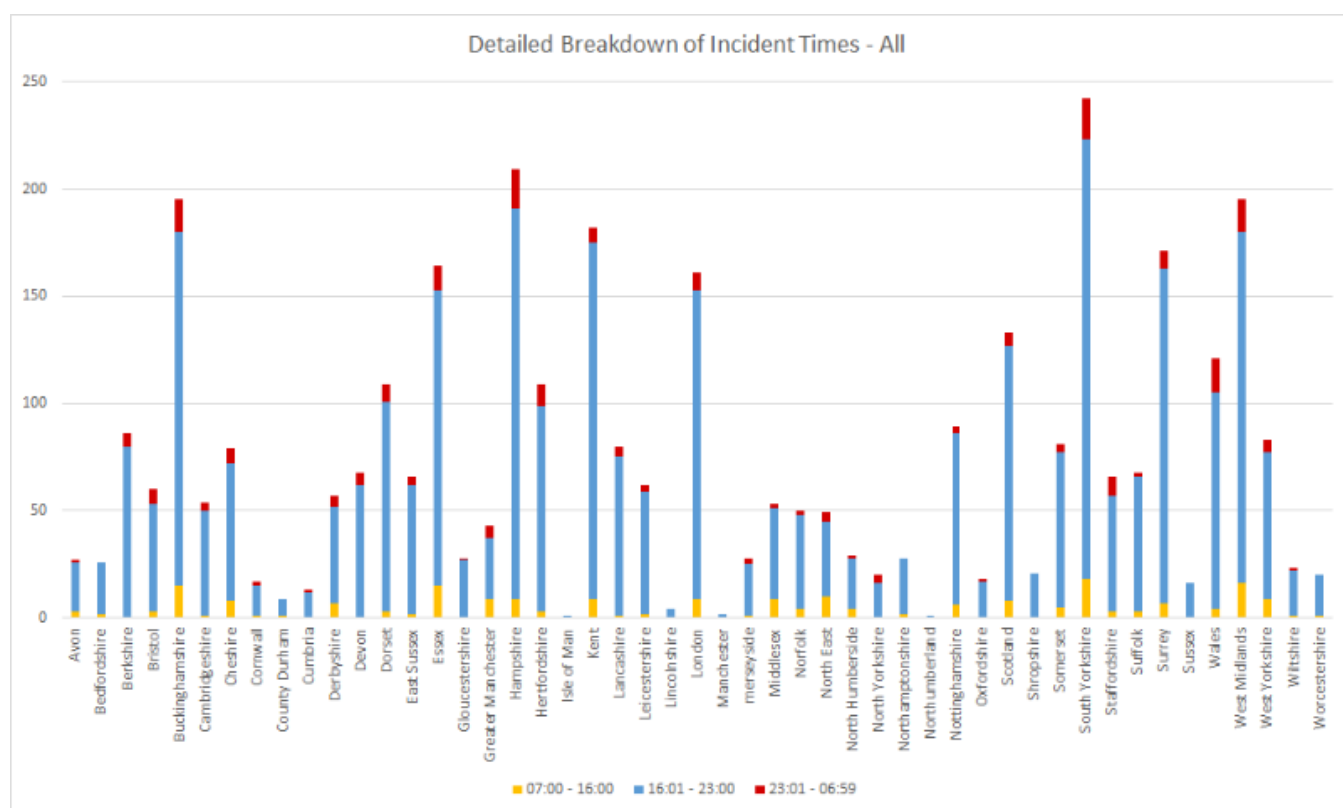
D.A.W.G.S (Dog Action Working Groups Scotland) SCIO	FOREST DOG
GREYHOUND LIFELINE	EVESHAM GREYHOUND AND LURCHER RESCUE
RABBIT WELFARE ASSOCIATION AND FUND	IBIZAN HOUND RESCUE
CAT ACTION TRUST 1977	TAG PET RESCUE
PAWS ANIMAL SANCTUARY	ANIMAL PROTECTION AGENCY
LIVERPOOL CAT WELFARE (RESCUE CENTRE)	VIVA
GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE	ANIMAL CHARITIES UK
MURPHYS ARMY	CLARKS FARM GREYHOUND RESCUE
ANIMALS 1ST	STAFFIE RESCUE
UK RESCUE DOGS	CAT PROTECTION – Falmouth Branch
GREENS 4 ANIMALS	GIVE A DOG A HOME – UK
CATS PROTECTION – Harlow, Epping Forest & District	WAGGIE TAILS RESCUE DORSET
HILLBRAE DOG RESCUE	PAWS PET FOUNDATION
ANIMAL RESCUE & CARE	POUNDS FOR POUNDIES
WILLOWS CAT RESCUE CENTRE	ANIMAL SANCTUARY CHARITY (Wilmslow_
IRISH RETRIEVER RESCUE	HULA Animal Rescue
DURRELL WILDLIFE	ODD CAT SANCTUARY

CONSERVATION TRUST	
SASH TAG	5M PUBLISHING
AUTISM UPDATES	ASK-PERGERS
BEST FOR CATS	AUTISM PLUS UK
FEEDMARK	BETA (BRITISH EQUESTRIAN TRADE ASSOCIATION)
THE GREEN PARTY - Derbyshire	BRONCOED UCHAF
RESCUE AND ANIMAL CARE MAGAZINE	MIGHTY DOG GRAFFICS
THE BUSINESS GUIDE	PETWATCH
HORSE & HOUND	TAILS OF WHOA
THE GREEN PARTY – East Midlands	THE ANIMAL TEAM
WESTERN TACK TRADER	THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY – DERBYSHIRE
MARCHSTONE LABRADORS	THE VEGAN SOCIETY
ALTERNATIVE EQUINE UNCOVERED	WIFFWAFF DESIGNS
WHARMSLEY PREMIERBED	YOUR CONCERN UK
LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE SCOTLAND	

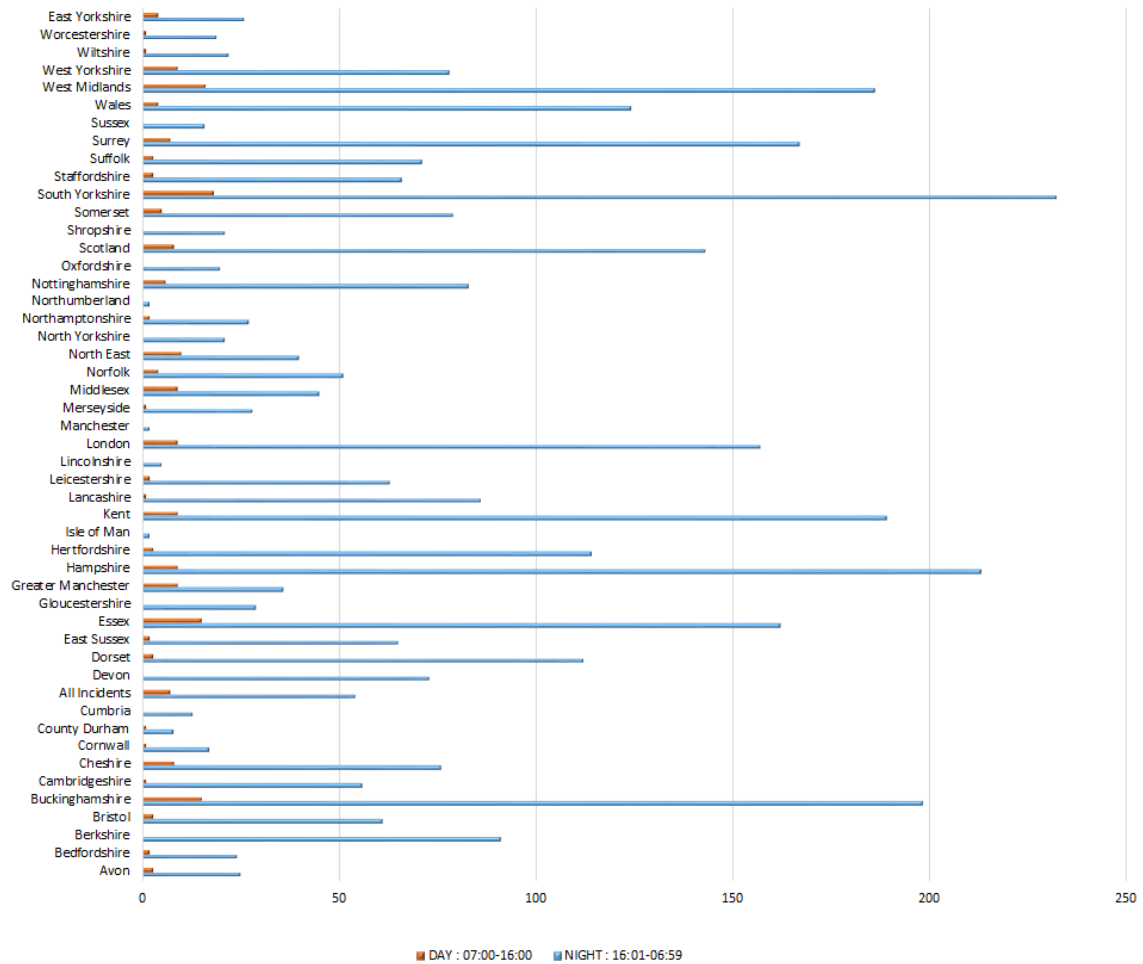
APPENDIX C: FIREWORKS REPORTED ONLINE

October 2015 To April 2016

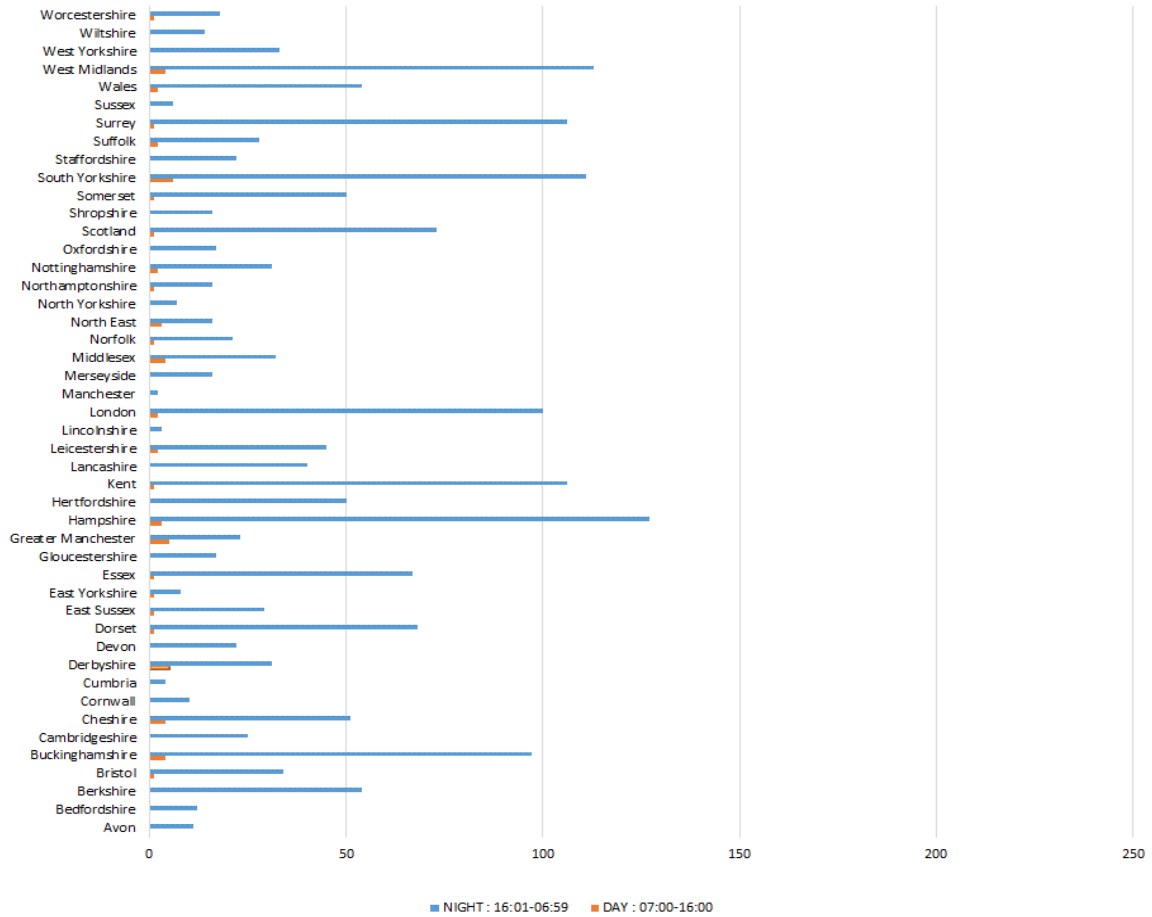
These graphs show all the online reported incidents of fireworks. None duplicated from neighbours etc. All individual incidents that negatively affected someone in their own home. As you can see not many of the problems are after curfew. (red)

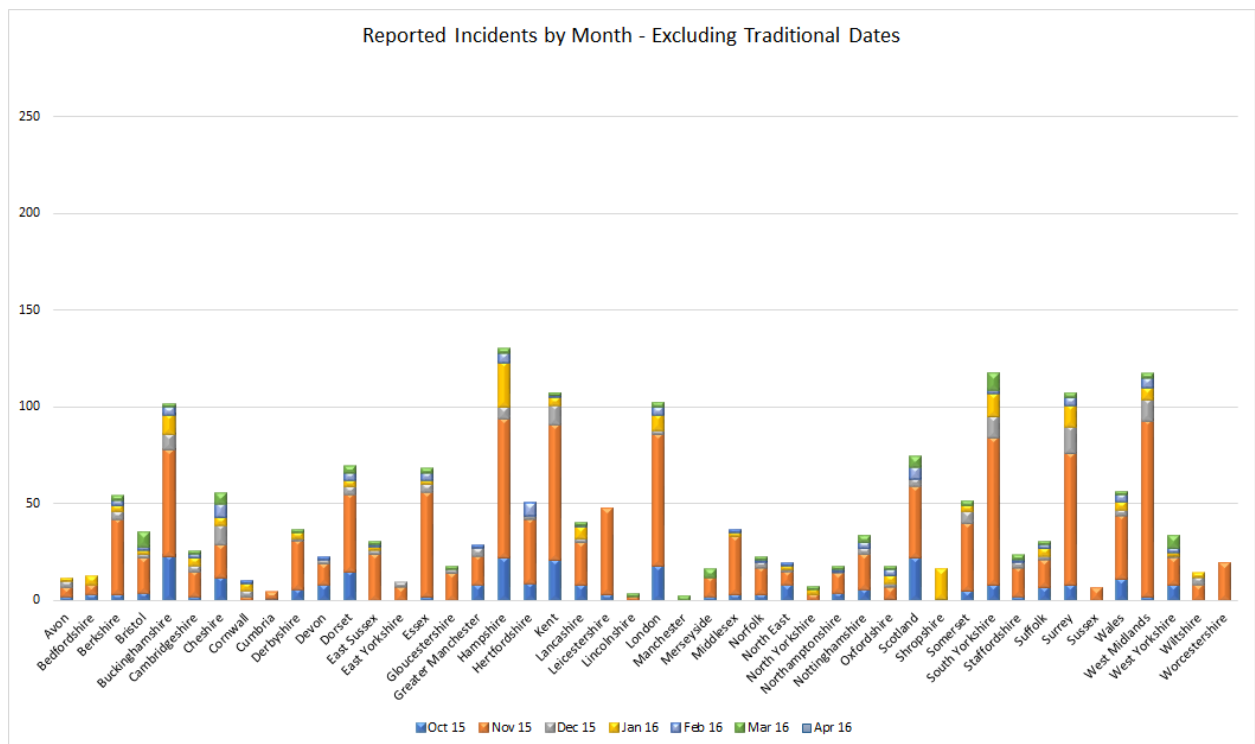
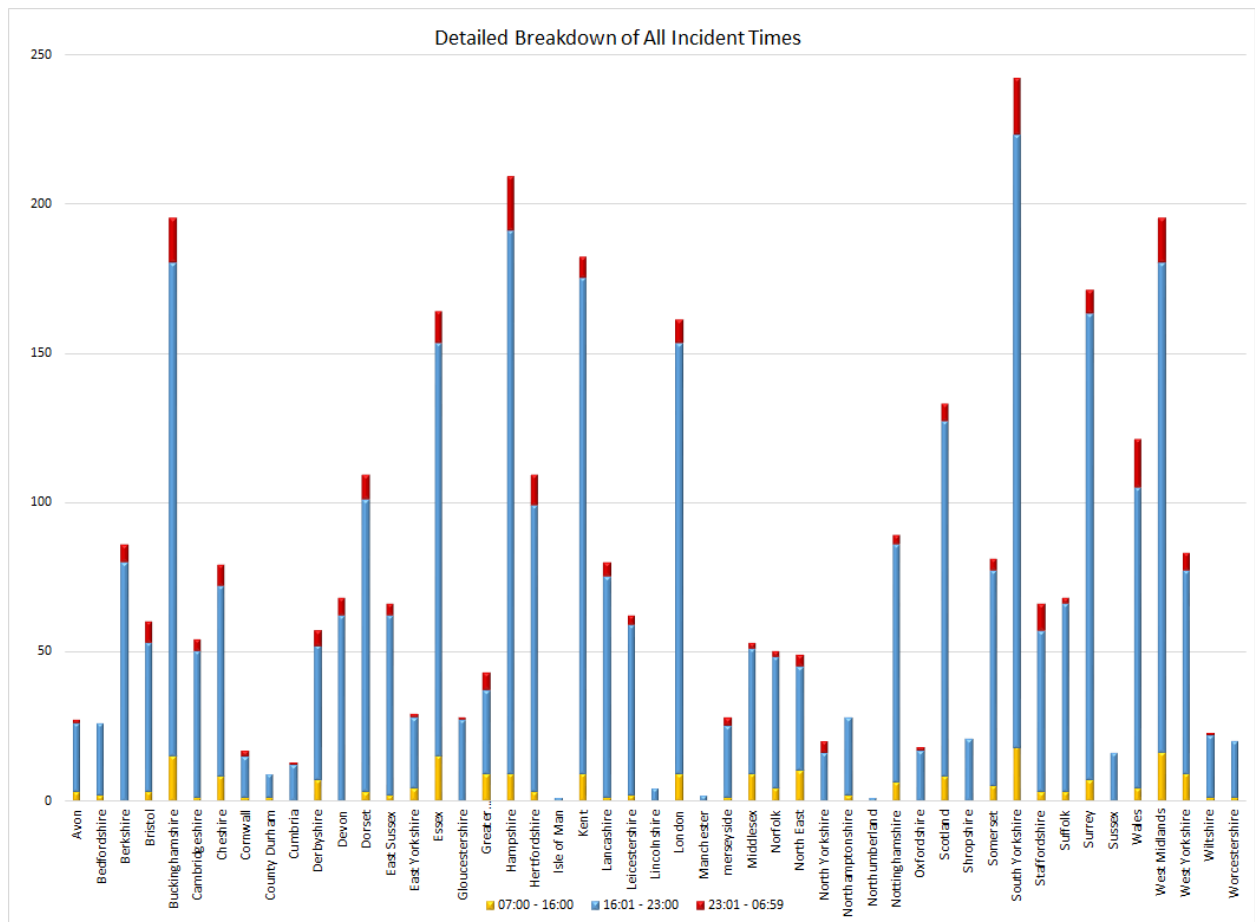


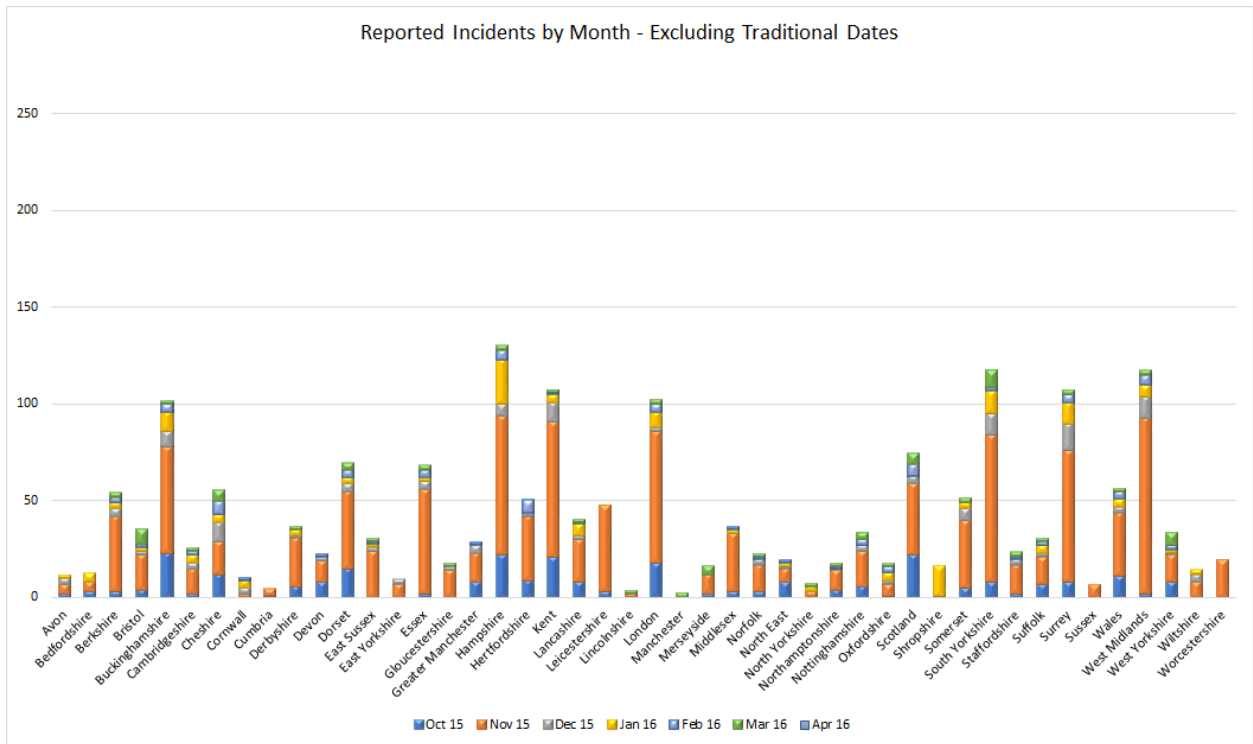
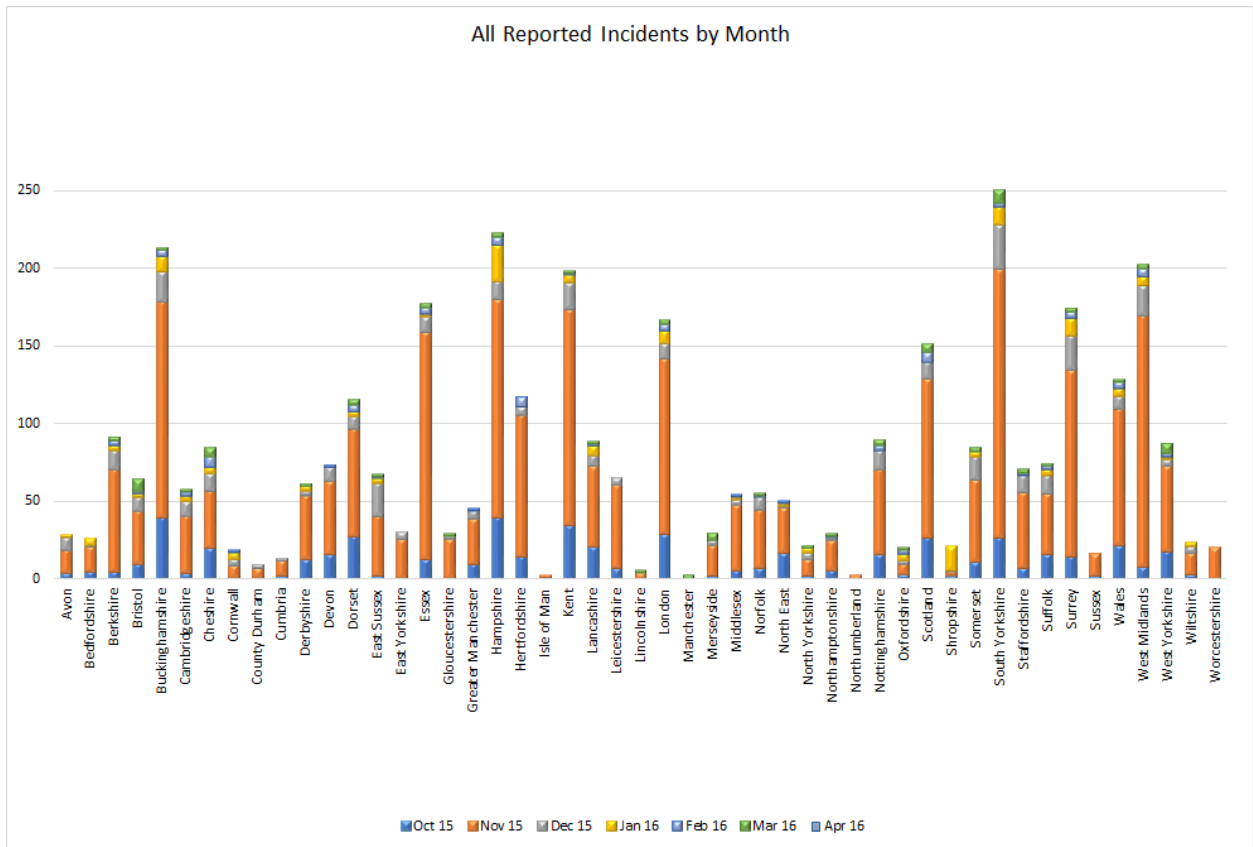
Breakdown of Reported Incidents - Day & Night (All)



Breakdown of Reported Incidents - Day & Night (Excluding Traditional Dates)







APPENDIX D: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Results From Enquiries To Police Forces Nationwide.

Freedom of Information requests were submitted to police forces nationwide. Initially the requests were sent to selection of a dozen police forces, before being sent to all forces nationwide.

The initial request asked for the following information:-

Data covering the incidents involving fireworks that have happened between 2010 and 2015:-

1. The number of incident numbers that have been issued in regards to fireworks being let off after the cut off time and the dates of these reports.
2. The number of incidents the police have been called out to involving fireworks.
3. The number of on the spot fines issued.
4. The number of prosecutions under the Firework Act 2004 and the number of no further actions.
5. How many reported incidents and fines were for under 18's.
6. The number of firework related road traffic accidents attended by police.

However, due to the results from this request proving to be too large for the majority of the police forces contacted to process, the request was redefined to simply ask for the number of firework related complaints received between the 1st of January 2012 to the 31st December 2015.

The following details the responses received so far.

Avon and Somerset

Avon and Somerset reported that no fixed penalties have been issued for Firework Act Offences. Although they do hold the information for question 1, the cost of compliance to process the results would exceed the cost and time limit as the information is not centrally recorded.

A free text search of incidents from 2010-2015 was conducted whereby the term 'firework' appears in the MO (modus operandi). There were 202 records that turned up in the search, but this was too great a number to be analysed to find out if they were after the cut off time.

Bedfordshire

Between 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2015 there were 459 reported incidents. However, a further detailed breakdown is not available as it would require a manual search which would exceed the time and cost allowance.

City of London Police

No reports received of firework related incidents between the requested dates.

Cheshire

Collation and analysis of prosecution data would exceed the appropriate cost limits allowed. A member of staff would have to manually read through and process 1238 incidents.

Of those 1238 incidents 609 were between the months of February to October. 629 were between the months of November to January, but the information is not detailed as to which of these were on the traditional dates and which were random, non-traditional days.

1102 of the reports were between the legal hours of 7am and 11pm, with only 136 between 11pm and 7am. 155 of these were between the hours of 7am and 4pm i.e. daylight hours, although the number of daylight reports are likely to be higher as the information is not specific as to which reports were in the winter and which were in the summer.

Cleveland

A keyword search for the timeframe of 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2015 identified over 3000 incidents, with at least 962 files for 2015 alone. A manual search through these files for 2015 alone would exceed the time and cost allowance.

Cumbria

Between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2015 there were 53 reported firework related incidents. Of those 53 incidents 43 were between 7am and 11pm. Of those 43, 18 were between 7am and 4pm i.e. during daylight hours. 17 were for the period between the middle of January to the beginning of October, before fireworks are legally on sale in supermarkets etc. to the general public. 17 were between the beginning of October and the end of December, but not on the traditional firework dates. 14 were around the traditional dates around November 5th. 9 reports were outside of the legal time i.e. between 11pm and 7am.

Of those 53 incidents there was one Caution/Youth Caution, two charges/summons, nine crimes remain under active investigation, twenty-eight no further actions and thirteen undetected.

Derbyshire

Derbyshire Police Force the information in full. They received 1465 firework related incidents between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2015.

In 2012 there were 392 incidents. Of those 37 were on the expected dates of 4th, 5th and 6th November, 8 were during Diwali on the 13th November and 3 were for New Year's Eve. There were no incidents for Chinese New Year. The remaining 347 occurred between the 1st January and the 30th December excluding those dates already mentioned. 187 of the incidents occurred outside of the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public, 205 were reported within the dates fireworks were on general sale. 333 of the incidents were reported between the legal hours of 7am and 11pm, or the extended hours of

midnight or 1am for 5th November, Diwali, Chinese New Year and New Year. The remaining 59 were reported outside of the legal hours.

In 2013 there were 337 reported firework incidents. 55 of those were on the expected dates for bonfire night, Diwali and New Year. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. The remaining 282 reports occurred between the 1st January and the 30th December excluding those dates already mentioned. 150 of these incidents occurred outside of the dates that fireworks were on sale to the public, whilst 187 of them were within the dates they were on sale. 279 reports were made during the legal hours for setting off fireworks i.e. 7am to 11pm or the legal extended hours, 58 reports were made for illegal fireworks set off between 11pm and 7am (or midnight/1am for the extended dates).

In 2014 there were 354 reported incidents. Of those 59 occurred on the expected dates of Diwali (23/10/14), 4th, 5th and 6th November and the 31st December. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. The remaining 295 reported incidents occurred between the 1st January and the 30th December excluding the dates already mentioned. 229 of the reports occurred outside of the dates when fireworks are on sale to the public, whilst 125 of them occurred outside of the general sale dates. 292 of the incidents occurred within the legal hours, whilst 62 occurred illegally outside of the cut off time.

In 2015 there were 381 reported incidents. Of those 64 occurred on the expected dates of Diwali (11/11/15), 4th, 5th and 6th November and New Year. There were no reported incidents for Chinese New Year. The remaining 317 reports occurred between 1st January and 30th December excluding those dates already mentioned. 205 reports occurred during the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public, the remaining 176 occurred outside of the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public. 315 of the reports were made with the legal hours for setting of fireworks, whilst the remaining 66 were made between 11pm (midnight or 1am on the expected dates) and 7am.

Dorset

A keyword search showed that between 1st January 2012 and 31st December there were a total of 30 incidents - 9 in 2012, 5 in 2013, 6 in 2014 and 10 in 2015. Of those 30 incidents, 6 were between the hours of 11pm and 7am and the remaining 24 were within the hours of 7am and 11pm.

Durham

The Durham force holds the information in relation to the number of firework related incidents that are reported, but unfortunately there is currently no facility to easily access the information.

There were 2,500 incident reports in the timeframe requested that would need to be read to ascertain if they are completely relevant to the request. This would exceed the time and cost limit.

Dyfed Powys

The cost of compliance exceeds the Appropriate Limit. The cost of determining whether the information is held would exceed the time and cost limits. It has been established that there is a total of 1,790 incident logs that would require researching.

Gloucestershire

The Gloucestershire force has central register for the information so manual review of the records would exceed the allowed time and cost frame.

Hertfordshire

Detailed lists of dates and times of firework related reports were given, the majority of them were dealt with as antisocial behaviour, and relatively few of them had linked crimes.

In 2012 there were 422 incidents reported. Of those 77 were on the traditional dates of 4th-6th November, Diwali and New Year's Eve. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. The remaining 345 occurred throughout the year on dates not traditionally associated with the setting off of fireworks. 264 reports were made within the dates that fireworks were on sale to the public. The remaining 158 reports happened throughout the rest of the year when they were not on general sale to the public. 375 of the reported incidents were within the legal hours for setting off fireworks, whilst 47 were during illegal hours. There were 9 linked crimes during the year, 3 criminal damage, 1 burglary other, 1 firework in street, 1 underage possession of fireworks, 1 cannabis warning and 2 assaults.

In 2013 there were 252 incidents reported. Of those 76 occurred on expected dates for Diwali, 4th-6th November, Chinese New Year and New Year's Eve. The remaining 176 occurred throughout the rest of the year on dates not associated with the use of fireworks. 156 of them occurred within the dates that fireworks were on sale to the public, 96 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of those dates. 205 reports were made within the legal hours for setting off fireworks, whilst 47 were outside of the legal hours for setting off fireworks. There were two incidents of criminal damage.

In 2014 there were 365 reported incidents. 74 of those incidents occurred on Diwali, 4th-6th November and New Year's Eve. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. 291 reports occurred throughout the year outside of the traditional dates mentioned. 235 incidents were within the dates when fireworks were on sale to the public, 130 incidents occurred throughout the year outside of the sale dates. 309 of the reports were within the legally permissible hours, whilst 56 were reports outside of the legal hours. There were 2 incidents of arson, 1 assault, 1 cannabis warning and 1 criminal damage.

In 2015 there were 397 reported incidents. Of those incidents 88 were on the expected dates of Diwali, 4th-6th November and New Year's Eve. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. The remaining 309 incidents occurred throughout the rest of the year. 281 of the incidents occurred within the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public, the remaining 116 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of the sale dates. 339 of the reports occurred within the legal hours for setting off fireworks, whilst 58 of the reports were outside of the legal hours for setting off fireworks. There was 1 charge of fireworks in the street, 1 common assault, 3 cases of criminal damage, 2 cases of arson and 2 public order charges.

Lancashire

A keyword search showed that between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2015 there were 5030 incident reports.

In 2012 there were 1149 reported firework incidents. Of those, 168 occurred within the expected dates of Chinese New Year, Diwali, 4th to 6th November and New Year's Eve. The remaining 981 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of those expected dates. 546 incidents occurred between the dates that fireworks were on general sale to the public, whilst 603 occurred outside of the dates that they were on general sale. 950 of the reports were made within the legal hours for setting off fireworks, whilst 199 were during the hours that it is illegal to let off fireworks.

In 2013 there were 892 reported firework incidents. Of those incidents, 188 occurred within the expected dates, although there were no reports on Chinese New Year. The remaining 701 occurred throughout the year outside of the expected dates. 520 occurred during the dates that fireworks were on general sale to the public, 372 occurred outside of the dates that they were on general sale. 759 reports occurred during the legal hours, whilst 133 occurred during the hours that it is illegal to set off fireworks.

In 2014 there were a total of 1764 firework related incidents. 223 of these occurred over the expected dates of Chinese New Year, Diwali, 4th to 6th November and New Year's Eve. The remaining 1541 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of these dates. 569 occurred within the dates that fireworks were on general sale to the public, whilst 1195 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of those dates. There were 1662 reports within the hours that it is legal to set off fireworks, whilst 102 happened during hours that it is illegal to let off fireworks.

In 2015 there were a total of 1225 reported incidents. 470 of these occurred on the expected dates, although there were no reports for the Chinese New Year. The remaining 755 happened throughout the rest of the year outside of those dates. 827 reports occurred within the dates that fireworks were on general sale to the public, the remaining 398 happened throughout the rest of the year outside of those dates. 203 reports were for fireworks being set off during illegal hours, whilst the remaining 1022 occurred during hours that it is legal to set off fireworks.

Leicester

There were 1220 reported firework related incidents between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2015. The information provided only gave the dates of the reports, not the times that they came in, so it is not possible to detail which reports were within the legal curfew and which were outside of it.

In 2012 there were 337 reported incidents. Of those 68 occurred on the traditional dates of Diwali, New Year's Eve and November 4th to November 6th. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. The remaining 269 occurred throughout the rest of the year on dates not related to the traditional use of fireworks. 169 of the incidents occurred within the dates that fireworks were on sale to the public, whilst 168 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of those sale dates.

In 2013 there were 235 reported incidents. Of those 62 occurred on the traditional dates of Diwali, Chinese New Year, New Year's Eve and the 4th – 6th November, 173 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of those dates. 139 of the reports occurred within the dates that fireworks were on general sale to the public, 96 occurred outside of these dates throughout the rest of the year.

In 2014 there were 287 reported incidents. Of those, 61 occurred on the traditional dates of Diwali, New Year's Eve and 4th-6th November. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. 226 occurred outside of those dates throughout the rest of the year. 187 incidents occurred within the dates that fireworks were on general sale to the public whilst 100 incidents happened throughout the rest of the year outside of those dates.

In 2015 there were 363 reported incidents. Of those, 84 occurred within the traditional dates of Diwali, New Year's Eve and 4th-6th November. There were no reports for Chinese New Year. 279 happened throughout the rest of the year outside of those dates. 217 of the incidents occurred within the dates that fireworks were on general sale to the public, 146 of the incidents occurred outside of those dates throughout the rest of the year.

Northumbria

Initial searches for the work 'firework', 'fire work' or the incident code for fireworks produced in excess of 1100 incidents for just one year. This means that it would take over the allowed time and cost limit to process the information.

South Yorkshire

The results from the search based on the initial request produced over 9700 incidents containing the word firework. Unfortunately this was too many incidents for the force to process within the cost limit.

Scotland

Whilst Police Scotland is moving towards the implementation of one system across the country, it currently remains the case that some of the fourteen Police Scotland divisions continue to use different recording systems in relation to the recording of incidents. Therefore, the only way to provide the information accurately would be for them to examine each and every incident for the years requested to establish if fireworks were involved. This would prove to be too time consuming and costly to do within the set limits.

Staffordshire

There were 810 reports in total for the period requested. As a result a detailed breakdown would exceed the time limit, but the following information has been supplied.

2010 – 323 reports of antisocial fireworks. 135 of these occurred between the 1st January and 31st December outside of the dates that fireworks are available for sale to the public, the remaining 188 occurred during the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public. 70 of the reports were on the expected dates for fireworks i.e. Diwali (13th November) and the 4th, 5th and 6th November. There were no reports for New Year or Chinese New Year. 253 of these reports occurred between 1st January and 30th December, not including the expected dates already mentioned. 264 of the incidents were reported with the legal hours of 7am and 11pm (midnight and 1am on Diwali, 5th November and New

Year). 59 of the incidents were outside of the legally permissible hours and occurred between 11pm (midnight and 1am for Diwali, 5th November and New Year) and 7am

2011 – 219 reports of antisocial fireworks. 128 reports occurred within the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public, 91 reports occurred between 1st January and the 31st December excluding the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public. 52 of the incidents occurred on Diwali, the 4th, 5th, 6th of November. The remaining 167 reports were on days that are not associated with fireworks throughout the rest of the year. There were no reports for Chinese New Year and one report for illegal fireworks (2.18 am on New Year's Day). 188 of the incidents occurred within the legal hours of 7am and 11pm (except the extended days), whilst the remaining 31 happened illegally outside of those hours between 11pm and 7am (midnight/1am on the extended days).

2012 – 172 reports of antisocial fireworks. 106 reports occurred within the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public. The other 66 occurred between 1st January and 31st December outside of the dates they are on sale. 41 reports came in on the dates when fireworks were expected i.e. Diwali and 4-6th November. There were no reports for Chinese New Year or New Year's Eve up to midnight. The remaining 131 reports occurred throughout the year on dates which are not traditionally linked with fireworks. 142 of the reports were within the legal hours that fireworks can be let off (including the legal extended days). The remaining 30 were reported outside of the legal hours so between 11pm and 7am.

2013 – 151 reports of antisocial fireworks. 85 of these incidents were reported during the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public, the remaining 66 occurred throughout the rest of the year. 35 reports occurred on the dates that fireworks are traditionally used, i.e. Diwali, 4th-6th November. There were no reports for Chinese New Year or New Year's Eve. 116 of the incidents occurred throughout the year on days not associated with having fireworks. 117 of the incidents occurred within the legal curfew hours including the extended hours for Diwali and 5th November. The remaining 34 were for fireworks let off outside of the legal hours.

2014 – 98 reports of antisocial fireworks. 64 of the incidents occurred during the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public. The remaining 34 occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of the sale dates. 20 of the incidents were reported on Diwali and 4th-6th November. There were no reports for Chinese New Year or New Year's Eve up to midnight. The remaining 78 occurred on dates throughout the year on days not associated with fireworks. 78 of the reports occurred within the legal times of 7am – 11pm, or the extended hours for Diwali and 5th November, the remaining 20 occurred illegally outside of those time in the early hours.

2015 – 173 reports of antisocial fireworks. 121 of the incidents occurred within the dates that fireworks are on sale to the public, 52 incidents occurred throughout the rest of the year outside of the sale dates. 49 of the reports came in for Diwali and the 4th-6th November. There were no reports for either Chinese New Year or New Year's Eve. The remaining 124 occurred throughout the year on dates not related to the use of fireworks. 143 of the reports were made within the legal hours for setting off fireworks, whilst the remaining 30 were during illegal hours.

Suffolk

It was estimated that the attempt to retrieve all of the information requested would exceed the time limit for Freedom of Information requests. Information regarding incidents reported after the cut off time is not centrally recorded and there is no tag on the call data to use to extract the information quickly.

A free text search revealed 2029 reports of firework incidents were made between 2010 and 2015. However, at roughly two minutes per call it would take too long to provide a detailed breakdown of these reports.

There are two offences recorded in relation to '123/01 Throwing fireworks' and '196/01 Contravention of Section 11 of the firework regulations'.

Since 2010 there have been three offences of Contravention of section 11 of the Firework Regulations recorded and 19 offences of throwing fireworks.

Surrey Police

Between October 2010 and November 2013 the following Penalty Notices were issued:-

One Fixed Penalty notice for possession of adult fireworks by a person under 18.

One Fixed Penalty notice for use of adult fireworks during night hours.

One charge/summons for possession of adult fireworks by persons under 18.

Seven Fixed Penalty notices for fireworks fired into highway/public place.

Two issues resolved for firing into highway/public place and one undetected.

Following the introduction of a new crime recording system circa November 2014 the offences cannot be easily extracted (being 'non-notifiables' there is no requirement to report such figures to the Home Office). It would require manual searching of thousands of potential incidents which could now be recorded under Antisocial Behaviour, Criminal Damage etc.

Thames Valley

The overall request was too large to provide all the information requested, and some of the information is not held in an easily retrievable format and these parts of the request would exceed the allowed time. However, the following information was supplied based on a keyword search:-

2010 – 441 incidents attended

2011 – 434 incidents attended

2012 – 407 incidents attended

2013 – 375 incidents attended

2014 – 372 incidents attended

2015 (1st January to 30th November) – 346 incidents attended.

Over the time period there were a total of five charges, two penalty notices for disorder, two simple cautions, one youth restorative disposal, three no further actions.

There was one penalty notice issued for breach of the fireworks curfew (11pm-7pm). Fifty-one penalty notices were issued for firing/throwing fireworks. Two penalty notices were issued for possession of fireworks by a person under 18 of an adult firework. One penalty notice for possession of a category 4 firework. Five penalty notices were issued for throwing/casting/firing fireworks in a highway/street/thoroughfare/public place.

West Mercia

The information for questions 1, 2, 5 (partial) and 6 is not held centrally or in an electronically searchable format. Searches for the keyword 'firework' produced a result too large to process within the time and cost limits.

For questions 3 and 4, the only notices issued for firework related offences are penalty notices for disorder. These are not on the spot fines, but fixed penalty notices. There were 7 notices issued between the 1st January 2010 and 30th November 2015. Two of those notices were issued to under eighteens.

West Midlands

Although West Midlands Police did respond and provide a PDF with their results, it is a corrupted file and won't open. It has been requested again, awaiting their response.

Conclusion

The incident searches conducted by the different police forces across the country produced a total of 35,148 firework related incidents in total. Of those 11,993 gave dates and or times of the reported incidents. Analysis shows the following:-

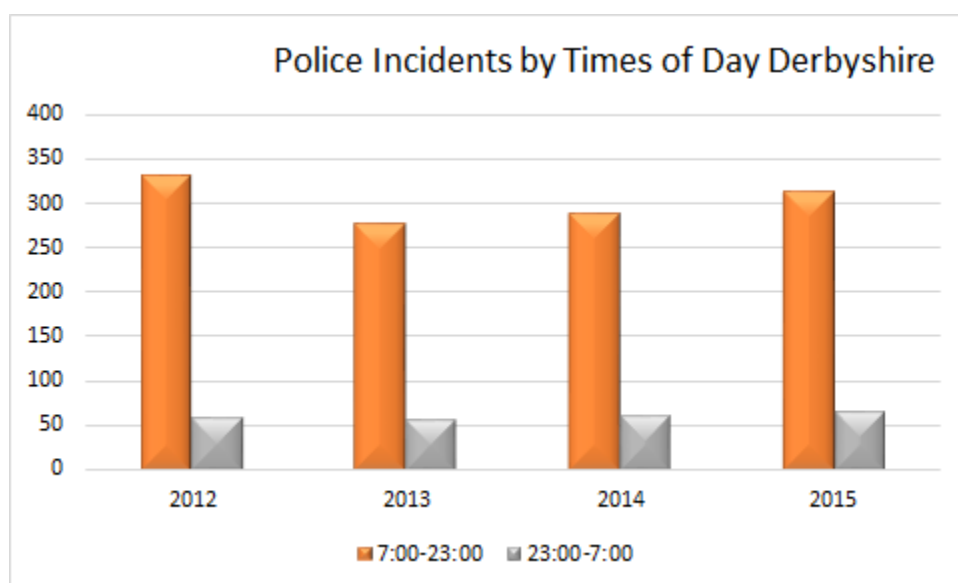
29% of the reports occurred on the dates that fireworks would be expected to go off i.e. Chinese New Year, Diwali, 4th to 6th of November and New Year's Eve. Interestingly, Chinese New Year received hardly any reports in any year. 71% of the reports occurred throughout the year outside of the dates that fireworks are expected.

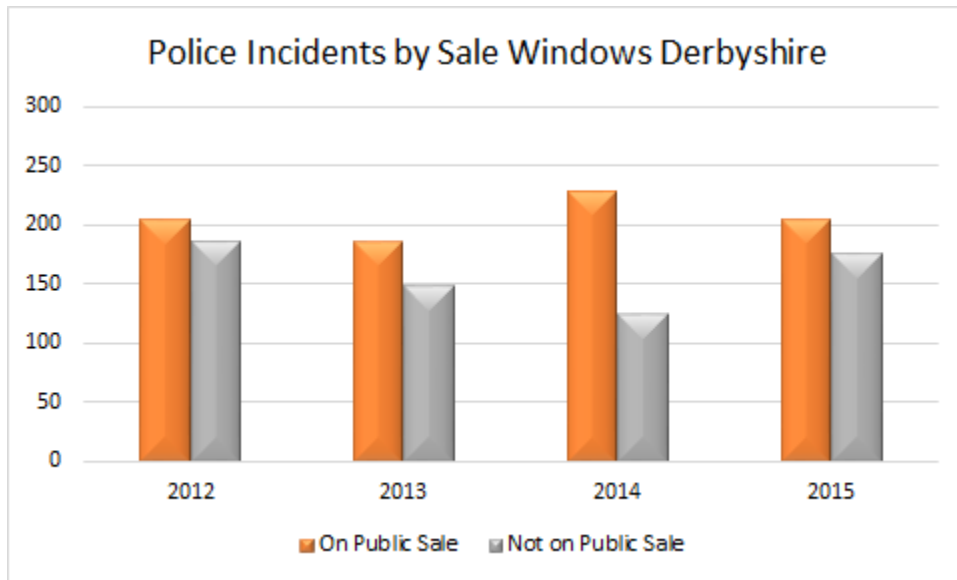
50.1% of the reports occurred within the dates that fireworks are on general sale to the public. 41.8% of the reports happened throughout the rest of the year outside of the dates that fireworks are on general sale to the public.

11.5% of the reports were for fireworks being let off in hours outside of the legal curfew i.e. between 11pm and 7am or after the extended curfews of midnight and 1am for Chinese New Year, Diwali, 4th to 6th November and New Year's Eve. 71.9% of the reports happened within the hours that it is legally permissible to set off fireworks, i.e. between 7am and 11pm or midnight/1am for the above dates. The results from the Freedom of Information requests indicate that the problem of fireworks being a source of disturbance and antisocial behaviour is spread throughout the year and the majority of reports occur within the legally permissible hours. Illegal fireworks i.e. fireworks set off outside of the legal hours are a much smaller problem. The majority of complaints occur through the year on dates that are not traditionally associated with fireworks and the split of complaints is even within and outside of the sale dates.

The results clearly indicate that it is overuse of fireworks throughout the year within the confines of the legal curfews that cause the greatest problems, rather than illegal fireworks.

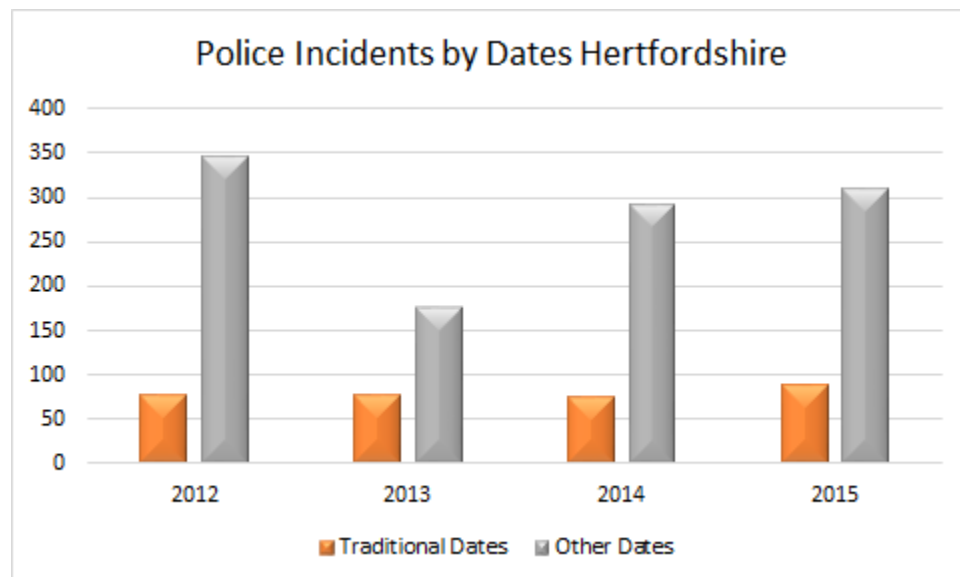
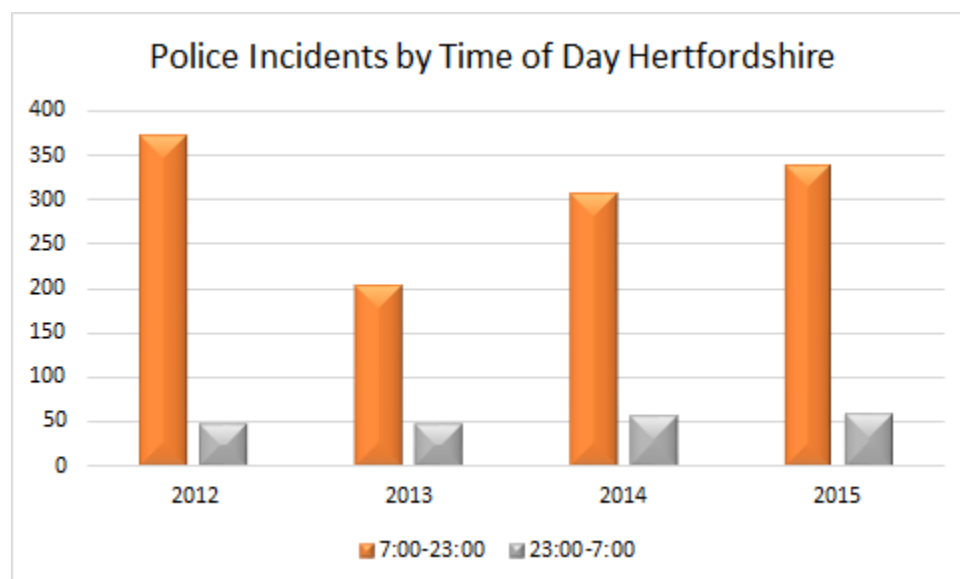
More detailed analysis of firework associated crime and how many of the reports relate to that rather than fireworks being set off as a nuisance is not possible at the present time as that information hasn't been made available.

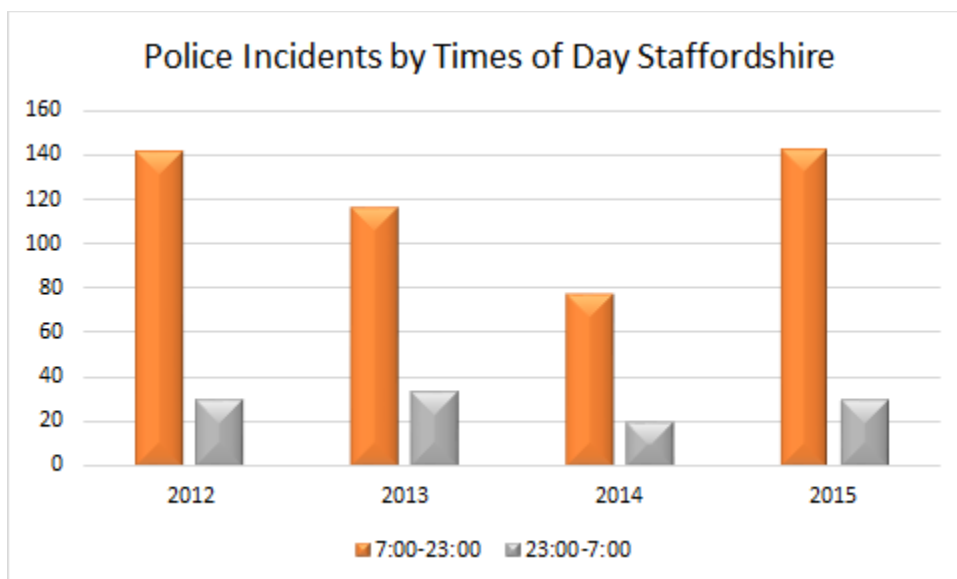
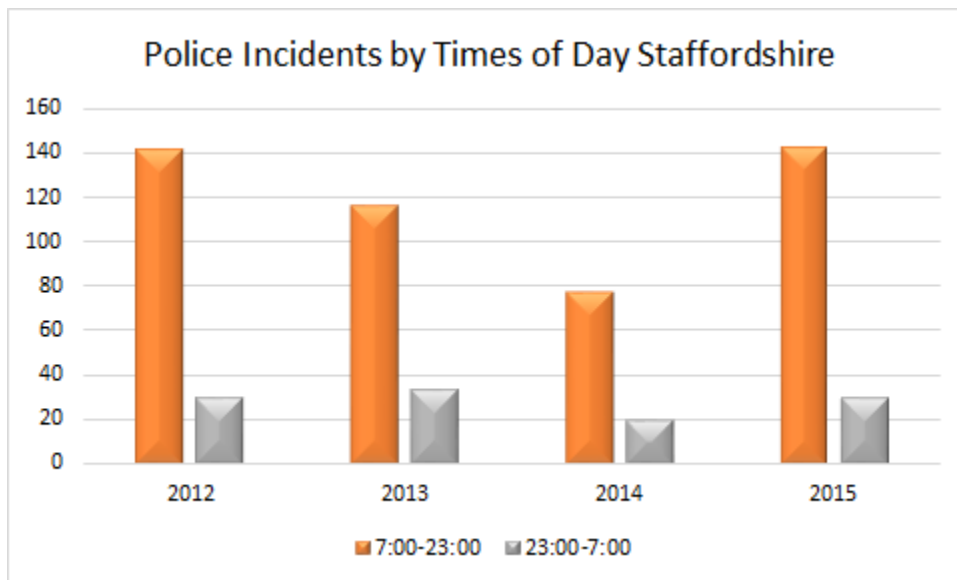


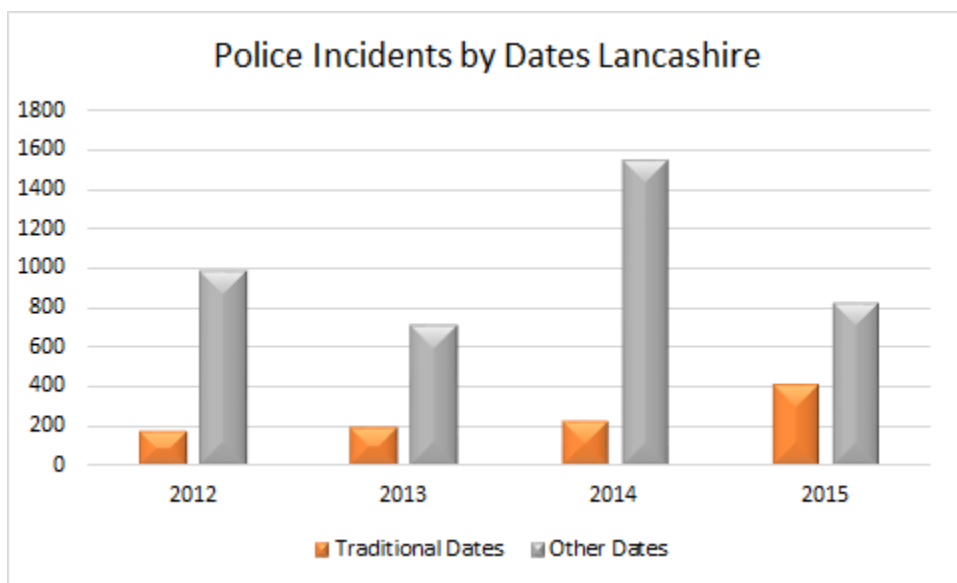
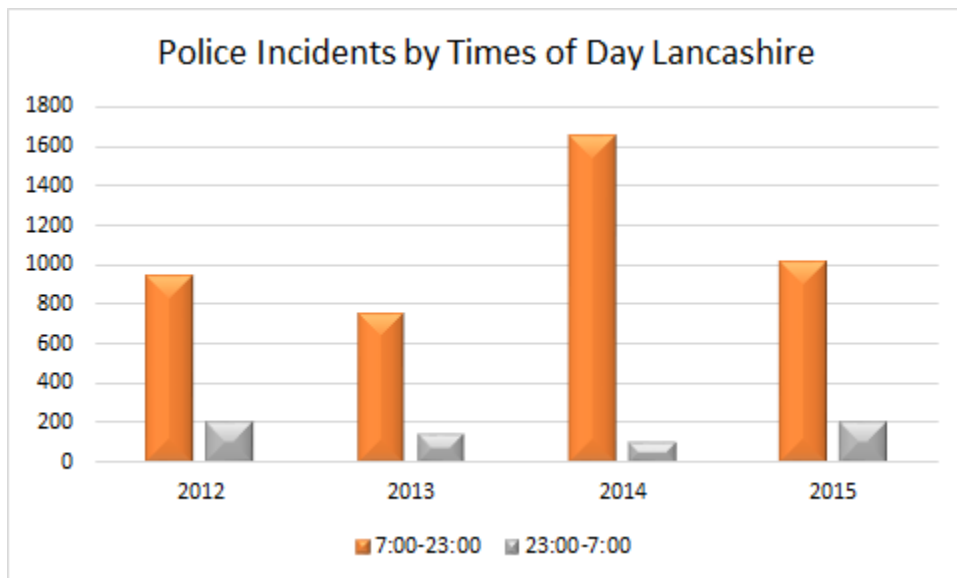


Note: Leicestershire force did not record the times of the incidents









APPENDIX E: NEWS REPORTS OF FIREWORK RELATED INCIDENTS

During The Time Of The Petition

SOURCE	DATE	COMMENT	WEB LINK
Derbyshire Times	03/10/2015	Sunderland woman hit with firework attack – over £10 debt	http://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/crime/sunderland-woman-hit-with-firework-attack-over-10-debt-1-7497447
Express & Star	17/10/2015	What if it was their family? Paramedic speaks out after yobs attack ambulance with fireworks	http://www.expressandstar.com/news/2015/10/17/what-if-it-was-their-family-paramedic-speaks-out-after-yobs-attack-ambulance-with-fireworks/
Liverpool Echo	20/10/2015	Teenage yobs attack Rainford man with fireworks	http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/teenage-yobs-attack-rainford-man-10299127
St Helens The Reporter	20/10/2015	Teen hands himself in after firework incident	http://www.sthelensreporter.co.uk/news/local/teen-hands-himself-in-after-firework-incident-1-7524818
Liverpool Echo	21/10/2015	Firework yobs spark gun fear drama at school gates in West Derby	http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/firework-yobs-spark-gun-fear-10308366
Lancashire Evening Post	21/10/2005	REIGN OF TERROR: Thugs as young as 11 hurl fireworks at police	http://www.lep.co.uk/news/crime/reign-of-terror-thugs-as-young-as-11-hurl-fireworks-at-police-1-7527574
Charnwood Borough Council	27/10/2015	Firework Nuisance	http://www.chnwood.gov.uk/pages/fireworknuisance
Express & Star	29/10/2015	Taser thugs steal £25,000 of fireworks from Latifs in Bilston	http://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-news/2015/10/29/taser-thugs-steal-25000-of-fireworks-from-latifs-in-bilston/
The Bee News	02/11/2015	CCTV appeal following firework incidents in Blackburn	http://www.thebee.co.uk/news/local-news/1780284/cctv-appeal-following-firework-incidents-in-blackburn/
South Wales Argus	02/11/2015	Fireworks lit and thrown in discarded freezer in Newport	http://m.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/14178576.Fireworks_lit_and_thrown_in_discarded_freezer_in_Newport/
Mirror	04/11/2015	Baby's saved from firework street attack thanks to his teddy bear snowsuit	http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/babys-saved-firework-street-attack-6767044
BBC News	05/11/2015	Bonfire Night mayhem leaves police officer hurt	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-34743906
Cambridge News	06/11/2015	Huntingdon man has finger blow off in firework accident on Halloween	http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Huntingdon-man-finger-blown-firework-accident/story-28126868-detail/story.html
Sun	06/11/2015	Anarchist thugs attacked police horses by ramming sticks in their eyes and hurling fireworks at them during an anti-capitalist rampage.	http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6729219/Animals.html
BBC News	06/11/2015	A police officer suffered a head injury when youths set off fireworks in the street in Sheffield on Bonfire Night.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-34743906

SOURCE	DATE	COMMENT	WEB LINK
Daily Mail	06/11/2015	'Out of control' yobs aiming fireworks at pedestrians and cars turn a Sheffield street into a warzone	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3307048/Yobs-aiming-fireworks-cars-people-turn-Sheffield-shopping-street-warzone.html
Manchester Evening News	06/11/2015	Fire-fighters attacked with bricks and fireworks aimed at police as Bonfire Night blighted by “mindless minority”	http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/bonfire-night-firefighters-attacked-manchester-10396478
Express & Star	06/11/2015	Dartmouth Park fireworks display: Lucky escape as yob throws firework near pram	http://www.expressandstar.com/news/2015/11/06/dartmouth-park-fireworks-display-lucky-escape-as-yob-throws-firework-near-pram/
South Wales Argus	06/11/2015	Fire-fighters called after firework posted through letterbox of flat in Cwmbran	http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/13948648.Fire-service-called-after-firework-posted-through-letterbox-of-flat/
Telegraph	06/11/2015	Million Mask March – Three officers and six police horses hurt on night of violence in London	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11975183/Million-Mask-March-Anonymous-protesters-hurl-fireworks-at-police-in-London-live.html
Express & Star	07/11/2015	Four children and man injured in fireworks incidents	http://www.expressandstar.com/news/2015/11/07/four-children-and-man-injured-in-fireworks-incidents/
Mirror	08/11/2015	Watch terrifying moment jobs launch firework attack on police car – London	http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/watch-terrifying-moment-yobs-launch-4595638
Bournemouth Echo	10/11/2015	Misty was spooked by fireworks and ran off – can you help find her?	http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/13954327.Misty-was-spooked-by-fireworks-and-ran-off-can-you-help-find-her-/?ref=fbpg
Derbyshire Times	10/11/2015	Anger grows as fireworks continue to go off in Tibshelf	http://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/grassroots/anger-grows-as-fireworks-continue-to-go-off-in-tibshelf-1-7563843
Leighton Buzzard	11/11/2015	Woman injured in firework horror	http://www.leightonbuzzardonline.co.uk/news/local-news/woman-injured-in-firework-horror-1-7059072
Evening Standard	12/11/2015	Revellers ‘injured’ by fireworks as Croydon Christmas lights switch-on goes wrong	http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/people-injured-by-falling-fireworks-at-croydon-christmas-lights-switch-on-a3113421.html
Hull Daily Mail	12/11/2015	Family warning after little Maisie Kay burned after being hit by 100-shot Illusion Missile firework	http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Family-warning-little-Maisie-Kay-burned-hit-100/story-28158621-detail/story.html
BBC News	12/11/2015	Police charge 17 youths over Edinburgh fireworks incidents	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-34797523
Derbyshire Times	12/11/2015	Ex-Dronfield shopkeeper sold booze to young person and illegally stored dangerous fireworks	http://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/crime/ex-dronfield-shopkeeper-sold-booze-to-young-person-and-illegally-stored-dangerous-fireworks-1-7566741
The Herald	14/11/2015	Police hunting Plymouth thugs who shoved lit firework through letterbox of flat	http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Police-hunting-Plymouth-thugs-shoved-lit-firework/story-28363492-detail/story.html
Northampton Chronicle	15/11/2015	“Exploded cat” was killed by firework	http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/local/exploded-cat-was-killed-by-firework-1-4477857
ITV News	25/11/2015	Disabled woman fighting for life after firework drive-by arson attack	http://www.itv.com/news/london/2015-11-26/disabled-woman-fighting-for-life-after-firework-drive-by-arson-attack/
Sky News	26/11/2015	Drive-By Firework attack gang caught on CCTV - London	http://news.sky.com/story/1594823/drive-by-firework-attack-gang-caught-on-cctv
Daily Echo (Bournemouth)	29/11/2015	“Attack” fireworks were legal, says council after complaints	Link: http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/14170890.quot-Attack-quot-fireworks-were-legal-says-council-after-complaints/?ref=fbpg
ITV News	08/12/2015	Fans warned about taking “pyros” to matches	http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/update/2015-12-08/fans-warned-about-taking-pyros-to-matches/

SOURCE	DATE	COMMENT	WEB LINK
South Wales Evening News	13/12/2015	Police investigate after firework was thrown from car at blind man	http://www.southwales-eveningpost.co.uk/Police-investigating-firework-thrown-car-blind/story-28356910-detail/story.html
Essex Police	14/12/2015	Four teenagers arrested after reports that fireworks were set off from a car in the Southend area	Link: https://www.facebook.com/EssexPoliceUK/posts/936221676461733?fref=nf
Belfast Live	15/12/2015	Six children hurt by fireworks this Halloween in Northern Ireland	http://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/six-children-hurt-fireworks-halloween-10601808
Buxton Advertiser	22/12/2015	Youths throwing fireworks in Buxton streets issued dispersal order	http://www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk/news/local/youths-throwing-fireworks-in-buxton-streets-issued-dispersal-order-1-7631551
Buxton Advertiser	22/12/2015	Blaze in Derbyshire toilets caused by fireworks	http://www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk/news/local/blaze-in-derbyshire-toilets-caused-by-fireworks-1-7637525
The Herald	27/12/2015	Police warning after faulty fireworks stolen from Plymouth store	http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Police-warning-faulty-fireworks-stolen-Plymouth/story-28427578-detail/story.html
Shepton Mallet Journal	30/12/2015	Hundreds back search for missing Leigh-on-Mendip dog Chaos	http://www.sheptonmalletjournal.co.uk/Hundreds-search-missing-Leigh-Mendip-dog-Chaos/story-28440588-detail/story.html
London Fire Brigade	01/01/2016	Stray firework sparks blaze at Romford fencing company	http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/LatestIncidentsContainer_01011630.asp#.VqolmPmLTIU
Hull Daily Mail	05/01/2016	Runaway dog Harvey scared by New Year's Eve fireworks found 14 miles away	http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Runaway-dog-Harvey-scared-New-Year-8217-s-Eve/story-28463171-detail/story.html?001
Braintree & Witham Times	06/01/2016	A firework was aimed at me as I walked my dog on Humber Road	http://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk/news/braintree-witham-news/14185652.A-firework-was-aimed-at-me-as-I-walked-my-dog/
Kent Online	08/01/2016	Youths set off fireworks in Norwood Gardens, Ashford in the early hours	http://www.kentononline.co.uk/ashford/news/youths-set-off-fireworks-across-48920/
Daily Mail	10/01/2016	Celtic fans flares and fireworks are ruining the club's reputation	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-3393067/Celtic-fans-flares-fireworks-ruining-club-s-reputation-says-Ronny-Deila-Bhoys-breeze-Stranraer-Scottish-Cup.html
Mail Online	12/01/2016	Prestigious academy school is fined almost £30,000 after a lab technician blew off three of his fingers while preparing a fireworks demonstration	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3395867/Bristol-academy-school-fined-30-000-lab-technician-blew-three-fingers.html
Westmorland Gazette	14/01/2016	Letter regarding fireworks going off 15.50 New Years Day	http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/14192575.LETTER_Think_twice_before_setting_off_fireworks/
BBC News	17/01/2016	Man charged over Islamic centre attack in Rhyl	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-34843
Wakefield Express	17/01/2016	Fireworks could be reported "gunshot noises" In Pontefract	http://www.wakefieldexpress.co.uk/news/local-news/update-fireworks-could-be-reported-gunshot-noises-in-pontefract-police-say-1-7679826
North West Evening Mail	18/01/2016	Inquest into Windermere fireworks blast deaths	http://www.nwemail.co.uk/News/Lakes/Inquest-to-open-into-Windermere-wedding-day-firework-blast-deaths-8d071e94-ed0-48ec-b078-d5f0e0579fda-ds
Express & Star	20/01/2016	Boss of fireworks display which left three injured was told of danger, report finds	http://www.expressandstar.com/news/2016/01/03/exclusive-boss-of-fireworks-display-which-left-three-injured-was-told-of-danger-report-finds/
Highland News	20/01/2016	Fireworks and football don't mix warn Caley Thistle	http://www.highland-news.co.uk/Sport/Football/Inverness-Caley-Thistle/Fireworks-and-football-dont-mix-warn-Caley-Thistle-20012016.htm

SOURCE	DATE	COMMENT	WEB LINK
Scunthorpe Telegraph	21/01/2016	Moving fireworks display lights up Scunthorpe's night sky after funeral of Mark Glentworth	http://www.scunthorpetelegraph.co.uk/pictures/FAREWELL-Moving-firework-display-lights/pictures-28563077-detail/pictures.html
BBC News	22/01/2016	Windermere wedding fireworks blast deaths 'an accident'	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-35379625
CHAD (Nottingham)	22/01/2016	Love-sick youth's threat to push fireworks through ex's grandparents' letterbox	http://www.chad.co.uk/news/local/love-sick-youth-s-threat-to-push-fireworks-through-ex-s-grandparents-letterbox-1-7724183
Gloucester Citizen	24/01/2016	Watch balloon launch and fireworks to mark anniversary of Zac Evans' death	http://www.gloucestercitizen.co.uk/Watch-Balloon-launch-fireworks-mark-anniversary/story-28594798-detail/story.html
BBC 5 Live Radio	27/01/2016	Manchester City Fireworks scare commentator	http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03grvz6
Jewish News Online	01/02/2016	Youth arrested for "throwing fireworks" at Jewish pedestrians in Hackney	http://www.jewishnews.co.uk/youth-arrested-for-throwing-fireworks-at-jewish-pedestrians-in-hackney/
Bolton News	01/02/2016	Dangerous fireworks dumped near Mount St Joseph School in Farnworth	http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/14243946.Dangerous_fireworks_dumped_near_school/
South West News	02/02/2016	Pony scared to DEATH after being tied to a post during fireworks display	http://swns.com/news/pony-scared-death-tied-post-fireworks-display-34949/
Express & Star	02/02/2016	Fireworks factory tragedy: Inquests delayed until March	http://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-news/2016/02/02/fireworks-factory-tragedy-inquests-delayed/
Mansfield CHAD	09/02/2016	Love sick youth's threat to push fireworks through ex's grandparents letter box	http://www.chad.co.uk/news/local/love-sick-youth-s-threat-to-push-fireworks-through-ex-s-grandparents-letterbox-1-7724183
Wales Online	13/02/2016	Fireworks light up the sky above Pembrokeshire in tribute to teen killed in motorway crash	http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/fireworks-light-up-sky-above-10887912
Express	14/02/2016	Chelsea treat their fans to fireworks as they hammer hapless Newcastle	http://www.express.co.uk/sport/football/643895/Chelsea-fireworks-hammer-hapless-Newcastle
Braintree & Witham Times	15/02/2016	Fireworks yobs cause damage to phone box in Great Saling	http://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk/news/braintree_witham_news/14277304.Fireworks_yobs_cause_damage_to_phone_box_in_Great_Saling/
Essex Chronicle	15/02/2016	Braintree phone box fireworks attack	http://www.essexchronicle.co.uk/Braintree-phone-box-fireworks-attack/story-28737017-detail/story.html
Nuneaton News	19/02/2016	Nuneaton fire station tour for young fire safety champion	http://www.nuneaton-news.co.uk/Station-tour-young-safety-champion/story-28769712-detail/story.html
BBC Sports Football	23/02/2016	Celtic fined £13,000 for fireworks and indiscipline	http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/35640219
Belfast Telegraph	24/02/2016	Follow on story. Belfast Telegraph. Celtic call on fans to stop setting off fireworks after £10,000 fine	http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sport/football/scottish/celtic/celtic-call-on-fans-to-stop-setting-off-fireworks-after-10000-fine-34480392.html
The Mirror	27/02/2016	Far-right protest in Liverpool turns violent as bricks and fireworks thrown at riot police	http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/far-right-protest-liverpool-turns-7454080
The Independent	29/02/2016	Air Lingus flight evacuated after school kids bring fireworks on board	http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/aer-lingus-flight-evacuated-after-schoolkids-bring-fireworks-on-board-34494306.html
Gazette Live	29/02/2016	Possible "munitions" discovery in Port Clarence turns out to be fireworks	http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teeside-news/possible-munitions-discovery-port-clarence-10968516
Horse & Hound	03/03/2016	Horse left terrified after fireworks shot into field	http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/horses-left-terrified-after-firework-shot-into-field-528466?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social#Qlul4pbV7VollPhk.99

SOURCE	DATE	COMMENT	WEB LINK
Lurgan Mail	03/03/2016	Police found 223 fireworks in garage	http://www.lurganmail.co.uk/news/lurgan-news/police-found-223-fireworks-in-garage-1-7240378
Kentonline	05/03/2016	Fireworks being set off in Grasmere Road, Kennington, Ashford, prompts police search	http://www.kentonline.co.uk/ashford/news/yobs-setting-off-fireworks-prompts-92140/
Mail Online	06/03/2016	Aimie Adam, a survivor of the Dunblane massacre, who was shot twice, today broke her silence on the horrific incident which has left her in fear of champagne bottles popping, balloons bursting and fireworks	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3478893/Dunblane-massacre-survivor-shot-twice-five-years-old-crawled-gym-cupboard-safety-reveals-terrified-balloons-bursting-fireworks-20-years-later.html
The Herald	11/03/2016	Man who shot a firework into an ex-girlfriend's home	http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Judge-blasts-silly-man-shot-firework-ex/story-28907062-detail/story.html
UTV	11/03/2016	Woman faces drugs and fireworks charges	http://www.u.tv/News/2016/03/11/Woman-faces-drugs-and-fireworks-charges-55586
Dorset Echo	13/03/2016	Firework vandals target prized classic car	http://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/14340491.Firework_vandals_target_prized_classic_car
BBC News	13/03/2016	Isle of Wight Shanklin derelict building fire evacuates homes - man heard what sounded like fireworks	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-35797206
You Tube	13/03/2016	Scrap metal madness: Plumber creates DIY 'firework rocket launcher' to blow his socks off (VIDEO)	https://www.rt.com/viral/335467-diy-rocket-launcher/
Harlow Star	14/03/2016	Harlow teenager remembered with memorial bike ride & fireworks	http://www.harlowstar.co.uk/Harlow-teenager-remembered-memorial-bike-ride/story-28919277-detail/story.html
Doncaster Free Press	14/03/2016	Sick yobs blast fireworks at thousands of birds in skies over Doncaster	http://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/sick-yobs-blast-fireworks-at-thousands-of-birds-in-skies-over-doncaster-1-7795185#ixzz42t98xm40
Daily Record	18/03/2016	Explosion horror as thugs launch firework through letter box as family sat at home watching TV	http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/explosion-horror-thugs-launch-firework-7582978#t1Ofdk3vBsMFtO8p.97
StaffordshireNewsletter	23/03/2016	Appeal after fireworks dumped in a Staffordshire ditch go missing	http://www.staffordshirenewsletter.co.uk/Appeal-fireworks-dumped-Staffordshire-ditch/story-28971419-detail/story.html

APPENDIX F: SUPPORTING LETTERS

Fireworks and animal welfare

BVA has concerns about the impact of the firework noise on animal welfare. The noise from loud fireworks can cause distress for all kinds of animals (including companion animals, wildlife and farm animals).

Current controls on the use and sale of fireworks

The [Fireworks Regulations 2004](#) (made under the powers of the [Fireworks Act 2003](#)), [Explosives Act 2014](#), [Pyrotechnic Articles \(Safety\) Regulations 2015](#), [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#) and [Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003](#) go some way to reducing noise, nuisance and anti-social use of fireworks.

Under the current legislation fireworks are divided into the following categories:

- Category 1 (indoor use – e.g. party poppers)
- Category 2 (garden use)
- Category 3 (display use for open areas such as fields)
- Category 4 (professional display use for large open spaces)

In terms of noise control, the legislation provides for:

- A 120 decibel (A1) limit on category 3 fireworks (consumer display fireworks) which is in line with the harmonised European Standard – BS EN 14035
- Powers for local authorities under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 regarding excessive noise – fireworks may be deemed a statutory nuisance by an Environmental Health Officer
- A ban on the use of fireworks between 11pm and 7am (except on certain nights of the year – until midnight on 5 November and until 1am on New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year)

Other controls include a:

- Ban on selling fireworks to people under 18 years old (except for category 1 fireworks)
- Requirement for retailers to have a licence to sell fireworks all year round. However, fireworks can be sold by unlicensed traders for Chinese New Year and the preceding three days, Diwali and the preceding three days, Bonfire Night celebrations (15 October to 10 November), and for New Year celebrations (26 to 31 December).
- Compulsory training course for people organising public fireworks displays
- Ban on setting off or throwing fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places

Research on fireworks and animal welfare

A limited number of studies and reports looking at issues around the impact of the noise of fireworks on animals have been published. These include:

- [Research from the Small Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network \(SAVSNET\) on veterinary consultations about firework related phobia](#)

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Registered Charity 263023 (England) 263023 (Wales)

How you can support proposed fireworks ban

14 January 2016

Last week we announced our full support for Midlothian Council's plans to ban the sale of fireworks to members of the public and now we are urging people to sign a petition in favour of restricting their use.

Under the plans announced on 6 January, organisers of licensed events would still be allowed to purchase fireworks but they would not be for sale in shops.

We have welcomed the proposal and urged other councils to follow suit.

Those in favour are being urged to sign an online petition to restrict the use of fireworks by [clicking here](#).



Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn said, "The Scottish SPCA has campaigned for tighter restrictions on the sale and public use of fireworks for many years and fully supports Midlothian Council's plans.

"We are now urging other councils to follow their example and hope the Scottish Government will support the initiative.

"Current legislation is so relaxed that fireworks can easily be misused and set off on any given day rather than being limited to major festival periods such as Bonfire Night and New Year.

"This leaves pet owners and farmers unable to make adequate provisions for their animals.

"We have been made aware of numerous incidents over the years where animals have come to serious harm and even death as a result of fireworks being set off near them.

"Animals have heightened senses and their hearing is much stronger than ours. The bang from a firework can be petrifying to an animal and some will panic and flee at the sound.

"We are aware of cases where terrified dogs have run off because of the noise and tragically



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Our Ref: 5898293/DC/MV

15 February 2016

Ms J Doorne
Bramble Cottage
Oasby
GRANTHAM
Lincolnshire
NG32 3NB

Dear Ms Doorne

Thank you for your letter of the 12 January 2016 bringing our attention to your petition calling for reform of the Fireworks Act (2004).

The RSPCA has long campaigned for changes to the legislation regarding fireworks as we are aware of the stress they can cause to some animals.

We receive hundreds of calls relating to fireworks every year. For example last year we received 364 calls relating to fireworks in October and November alone.

Fireworks can be a source of fear for many animals. Research shows that up to 45 per cent of dogs in the UK show signs of fear when they hear fireworks. Some of the most commonly reported behaviours are trembling/shaking, barking, and trying to hide. Other pets such as cats can also be scared by fireworks which can cause stress and anxiety.

Whilst it is possible for owners to help their pets cope with the short-term stress of fireworks, and possible for pets to learn to be less afraid of loud noises in the long-term, not knowing when firework events will be happening can make it difficult for owners to prepare in advance.

Livestock are easily frightened by loud noises and sudden bright lights, and as a result we would advise that fireworks should not be let off in areas near to livestock. If the animals were startled by the fireworks, they could be at risk of injuring themselves on fencing, farm equipment or, in the case of housed animals, on fixtures and fittings within their house. In addition, debris produced by fireworks can pose a hazard to livestock if found on the land. Farm animals may be brought inside overnight during firework displays, but this in itself can cause additional stress to the animals, and is not recommended where it does. Farm animals should be checked regularly throughout any period where fireworks are being set off and all practical measures, for example erecting noise barriers, should be taken to help reduce the impact of the fireworks on the animals.

As for wildlife the RSPCA doesn't have any direct evidence of an effect of fireworks on wildlife, other than the results of a 2002 survey involving 444 vets: of the 4825 animals affected by fireworks, 0.5% were wildlife and small animals.

Patron HM The Queen

RSPCA
Wilberforce Way
Southwater, Horsham
West Sussex RH13 9RS
0300 123 0100

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England & Wales
Charity no. 209899

www.rspca.org.uk/about-us

However, it should be noted that affected wild animals will probably not end up at a vet surgery unless they have been injured and then seen by a concerned member of the public. Intrinsically, and based on anecdotal evidence, it is likely that fireworks will cause a disturbance to wildlife including waterfowl and is likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on distance from explosive and noise level.

The RSPCA would be happy to support and publicise your petition through our social media, in order for us to do this please can you provide the details to our Campaigns team at campaigns@rspca.org.uk – they will look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you once again for contacting us, we wish you every success with your campaign and we hope to see changes made in the very near future.

Yours sincerely



Mr David Canavan
Acting Chief Executive



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

25 April 2016

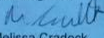
Dear Mrs Mitchell,

Re: Firework Regulations Petition Debate

Thank you for your letter, regarding the firework regulation petition debate and congratulations on your petition reaching over 100,000 signatures.

The Kennel Club agrees there is a need to ensure that sensible measures diminish the harmful effects that fireworks have on dogs. We have campaigned to try and ensure that only category 1&2 fireworks are available for public sale/use as these fireworks will have a less detrimental effect on dogs.

Kind Regards,


Melissa Cradock



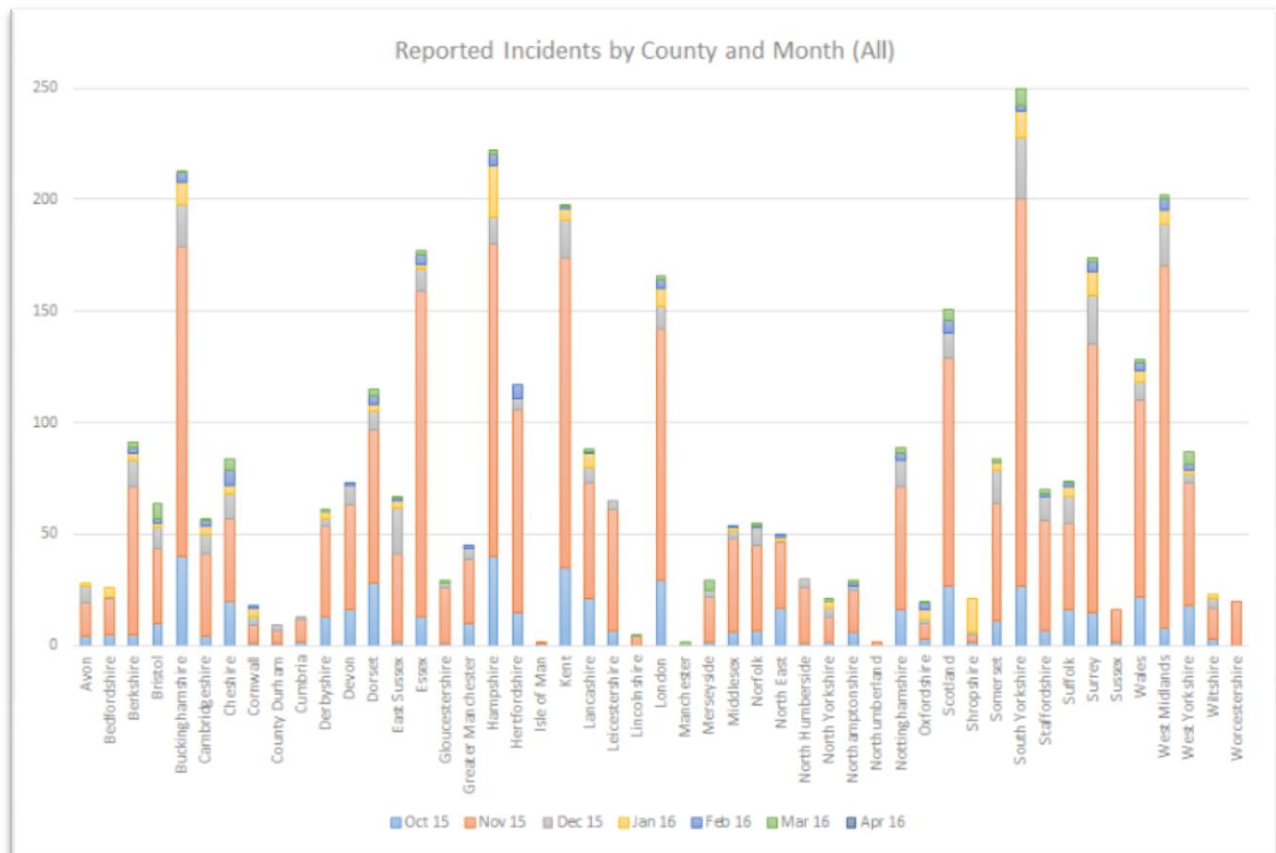
The Kennel Club Limited Incorporated in England and Wales
Registered No: 3217778
Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB
Telephone 01296 318 540 Facsimile 020 7518 1050 www.thekennelclub.org.uk

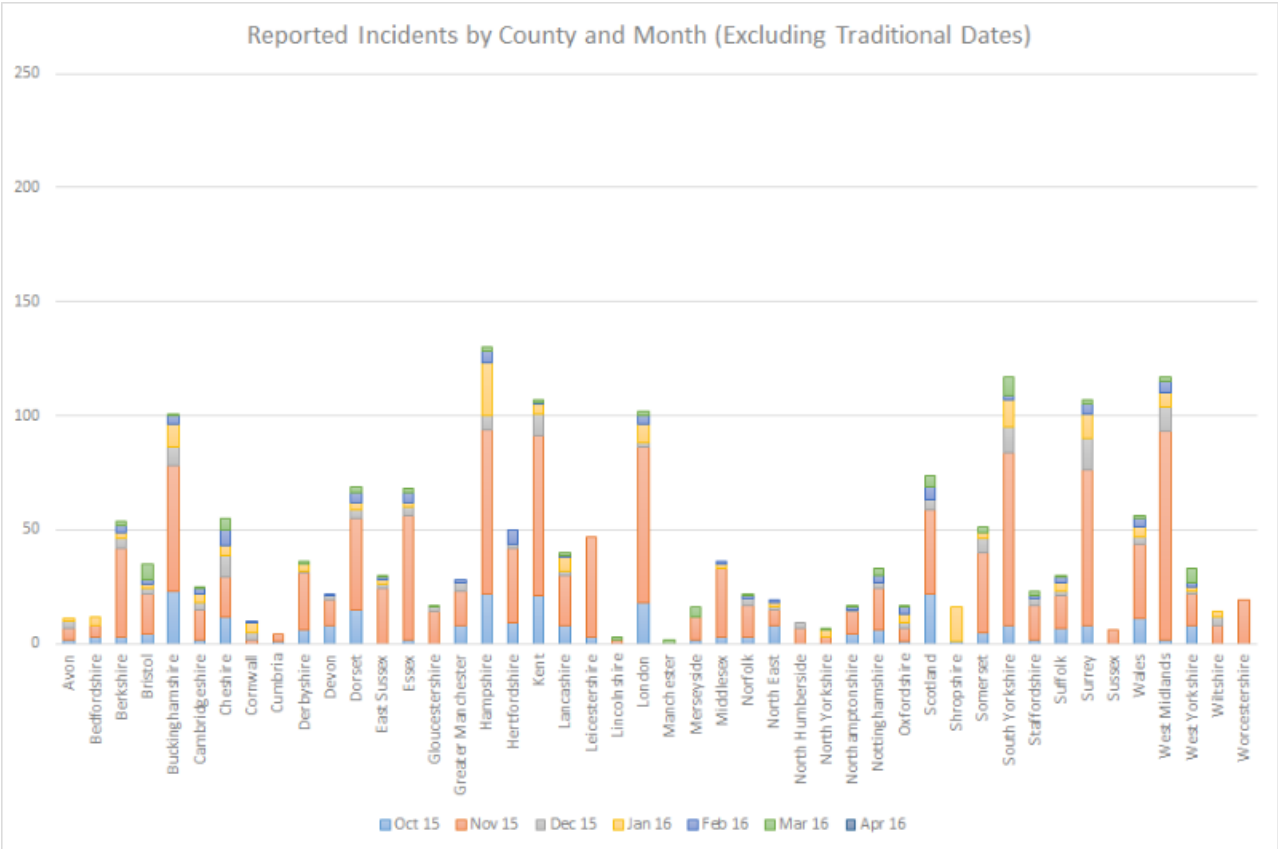
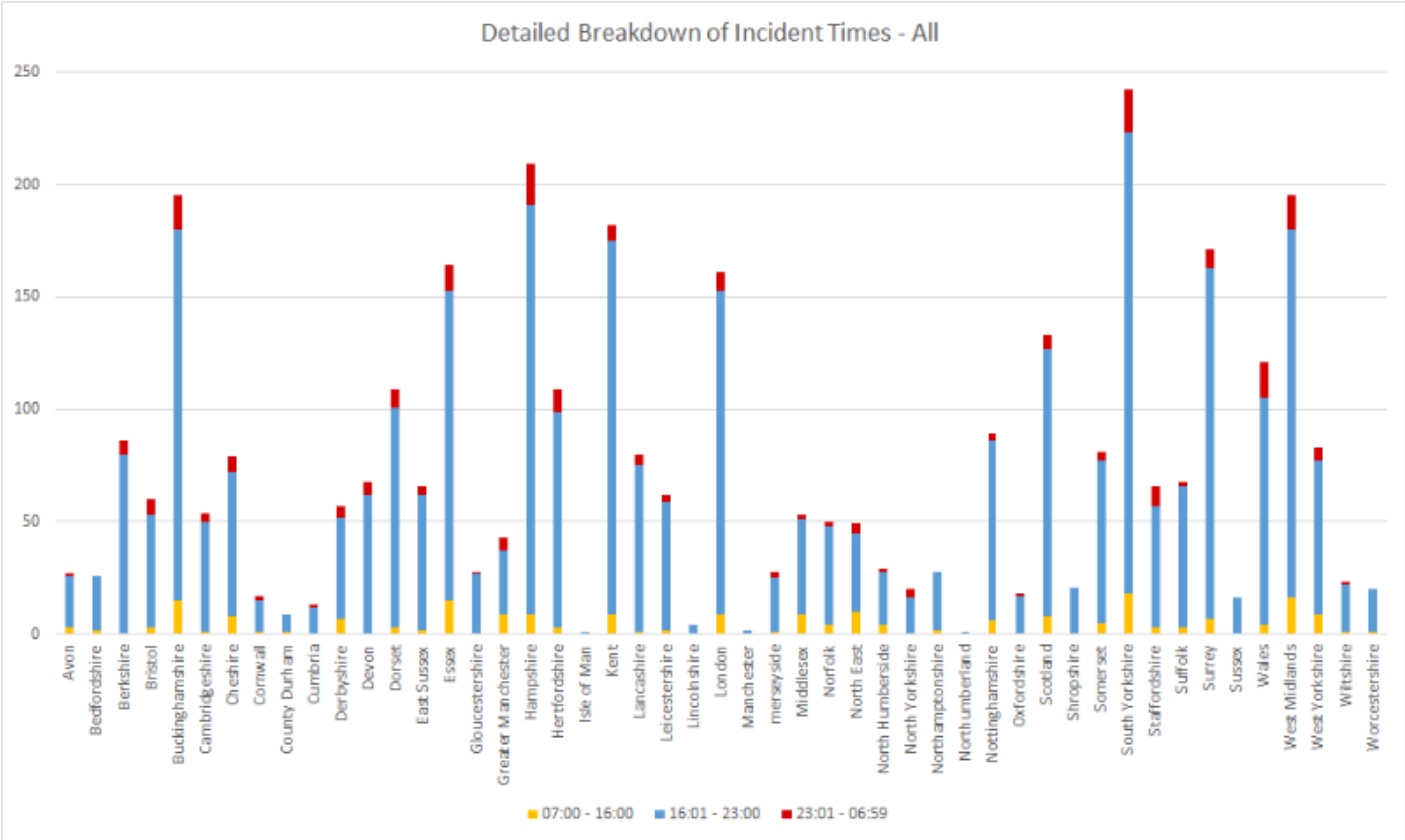


APPENDIX G: ONLINE REPORTED FIREWORK USE

These are firework incidents reported by some members of FAB group.

None are duplicated by neighbours etc all are single separate incidents.





APPENDIX H: RSPCA PRESS RELEASE



Fireworks and animal welfare

TOGETHER WE CAN...IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE

Key points...

- ★ The RSPCA supports calls to restrict the private use¹ of fireworks to certain traditional dates such as November 5th, New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali.
- ★ Fireworks can be a source of fear and distress for many animals. This can have a considerable negative effect on their welfare.
- ★ The current legislative framework, primarily the Fireworks Act 2003 and Fireworks Regulations 2004, has had some success in restricting the private display of fireworks. We would like to see it go further.
- ★ Firework phobia in domestic pets is a treatable condition and should not be ignored. The RSPCA has produced species specific advice for the most common pet animals which we would urge concerned owners to follow.

The need for reform

Fireworks can be a source of fear and distress for many animals. In particular the sudden, loud noises that many fireworks make can cause fear. For example, it is estimated that 45% of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks. Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries, sometimes very serious ones, as they attempt to run or hide from the noise.

Although most reports of welfare problems caused by fireworks relate to domestic pets, other animals can also experience fear, distress and/or injury as a result of them. Livestock are easily frightened by loud noises and sudden bright lights and can be at risk of injuring themselves on fencing, farm equipment or fixtures and fittings within their house if startled. Debris produced by fireworks can also pose a hazard to livestock if found on the land. Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause a disturbance to wildlife, including waterfowl, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.

There is widespread public concern about the effect that fireworks can have on animals and the RSPCA receives hundreds of calls about them every year. For example in 2015 we received 386 calls from people concerned about fireworks. This figure has been increasing in recent years. The total number of calls in 2015 represents an increase of 34% from the total number of calls in 2011.

Current legislation: the Fireworks Act 2003 and the Fireworks Regulations 2004

Although there is a slew of legislation regulating the sale, display and safety of fireworks, the [Fireworks Act 2003](#) and the [Fireworks Regulations 2004](#) are the main pieces concerned with regulating firework usage. The Fireworks Act was introduced with the aim of reducing the noise, nuisance and injuries caused by the misuse of fireworks. The Act conferred powers on the Secretary of State to make regulations to ensure there is no, or minimal, risk that fireworks will cause death, injury or distress to people or animals or damage to property².

The Fireworks Regulations were introduced under the Act. The main provisions of the Regulations are:

¹ 'Private use' in this case refers to the display of fireworks by the general public.

² Fireworks Act 2003, Section 2

For further information: politicalaffairs@rspca.org.uk

www.politicalanimal.org.uk

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PRODUCED BY: R Williams, L Dormer, L Lowen

- A curfew on the use of fireworks between 11pm and 7am (though this is later on November 5th, New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali),
- A ban on the sale to the public of fireworks whose noise level exceeds 120 decibels (db (A)),
- A ban on the sale of fireworks outside of the above mentioned specified dates without a license from either the Local Authority, Fire Service or Health and Safety Executive.

Penalties under the Regulations include fines, imprisonment and fixed penalty notices. For example, people who break the curfew can receive a fine of up to £5,000 and/or six months imprisonment, or a fixed penalty notice of £80.

Noise nuisance caused by fireworks can, in theory, also be subject to the [Environment Health Act 1990](#) and the [Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003](#). In practice, however, the short-lived nature of firework noise makes it difficult to locate the exact source and so for Environmental Health officers (responsible for enforcing both Acts) to take any action.

Proposed amendments to the Fireworks Regulations

The RSPCA supports calls to restrict the private use of fireworks to agreed traditional dates such as those included in the existing Regulations (ie November 5th, New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali). These dates are already recognised as being exceptional in the Regulations and we believe that the existing prohibition on sales at all other times could and should be extended to include use as well.

We would also like to see the maximum permitted noise level of fireworks for public sale reduced to 95 decibels (db (A)). Noise level studies³ have indicated that this level - equivalent to a car door slamming - is likely to minimise distress to animals. The current allowed level, 120 decibels, is equivalent to a jet aircraft taking off. Fireworks above 96 decibels should only be used at licensed public displays. We would also like to see fireworks labelled as 'loud' or 'low noise' to allow consumers to make an informed decision if they do buy fireworks.

Finally, we would like to see all public fireworks displayed licensed by the relevant licensing authority, with information about the proposed display provided in the local area and a process for local residents to appeal against the granting of the license. This process should also apply to people seeking to hold private displays at special events (such as weddings).

Treating firework phobia

Firework phobia in pets is a treatable condition which owners should not ignore. There are lots of simple things pet owners can do to help their animals cope with fireworks such as ensuring that dogs and cats are kept securely indoors, masking the noise of fireworks by closing windows and curtains and using music or the TV to mask it and providing pets with a safe place to hide if they feel frightened. Small animals who live outside should be provided with lots of extra bedding to allow them to burrow and should have some of their enclosure covered with blankets to mask the noise. Concerned owners can also talk to their vet who will, if necessary, refer them to a professional clinical animal behaviourist.

General and species specific advice for helping treat firework phobia in pets can be found on the [RSPCA website](#), as well as information for people concerned about [livestock](#) and [wild animals](#) affected by fireworks and their debris.

³ *Quiet Please*, RSPCA (2003)

[http://www.rspca.org.uk/servlet/BlobServer/Download%20Quiet%20please%20\(2mb\).pdf?blobtable=RSPCABlob&blobcol=urlblob&blobkey=id&blobwhere=1044103655242&blobheader=application/pdf](http://www.rspca.org.uk/servlet/BlobServer/Download%20Quiet%20please%20(2mb).pdf?blobtable=RSPCABlob&blobcol=urlblob&blobkey=id&blobwhere=1044103655242&blobheader=application/pdf) (accessed 30.03.16)

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APPENDIX I: MISCELLANEOUS

Silent Fireworks - Italy

Town in Italy starts using Silent Fireworks as a way of Respecting their Animals

27/10/2015



Any large celebration that involves fireworks is fun, but while we enjoy the sounds and sights of colourful explosions overhead, our animals feel very differently.

The explosions caused by fireworks have been known to give some domestic pets heart problems, nausea, tremors, debilitating fears and light-headedness. We all know that animals have far more sensitive hearing so you won't be surprised to read that firework displays can leave pets with "acoustic stress".

During firework displays animals are often confused as to where the loud noises are coming from which makes them run frantically away. Unfortunately this sometimes results in them being hit by a car. Other animals may be too close to the explosion and receive burns or eye damage as a result. If you keep chickens, you might find that they produce fewer eggs after a firework display.

People of the town of **Collecchio in the province of Parma** in Italy are doing something about it. **The local government has introduced new legislation forcing citizens to use silent fireworks as a way of respecting the animals and reducing the stress caused them.**

The company, **Setti Fireworks** make fireworks which produce a spectacular light show but without the deafening sounds normally associated with a firework display. They design their fireworks to fit the [venue](#) and event that they will be used for.

Firework Stash

Although not directly part of the campaign, we felt that we should include this within our report. Whilst researching we found that there is a section of society who purchase and store fireworks within their homes for future use. This can be accessed by looking on Youtube for firework stash. It is horrifying to see the amount of fireworks that could be stored in your neighbours house.

Within this group of people who gain pleasure from showing off their 'stash' there are further information pages which give advice on how to alter fireworks to gain a bigger more powerful 'ultra firework'.

How does the current legislation factor in these people. If dates were restricted they would then be restricted on the dates of use. If they were to use them outside of the restricted dates it would be much easier to police who they are.



Online Purchasing

A quick search online will bring up literally thousands of links enabling you to purchase fireworks over the internet in the UK.

To purchase fireworks via these sites is very easy and is paid for by either a debit card or paypal account. There is no check on age, just a box to tick to confirm that you are over 18. This system relies on the honesty of the purchaser, as there is no further check. Some banks in the UK allow you to have your own debit card from the age of 11. Having a debit card will then enable you to set up a PayPal account.

Under 18's are no longer reliant on borrowing or using mum or dads cards without their knowledge to make purchases.

There are no checks made other than the initial question asking if you are over 18. Once that is done and a card number is given the transaction is complete. We feel that this area of retail needs more stringent control.

APPENDIX J: STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC

We asked the public to send in statements detailing how random, unexpected fireworks affected them, their families, their pets. We have grouped the statements into 'human', 'human and animals' and 'animals'. The majority are about animals, we found people were quite reticent to share some of the effects with us. The reason for this is obvious when you understand some of the symptoms of the different medical conditions.

Of the 22 human angle statements included in this report, those with an illness are more greatly affected by the randomness of fireworks. They all acknowledge that if it were possible to know when fireworks are to be used they would find a way to be able to manage to a degree their illnesses for that short period. Many of the illnesses, PTSD, Autism, Aspergers, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, Fibromyalgia and Hyperciscus, to name but a few are made intolerable for the sufferer as their bodies and mental health react to sudden loud noises (fireworks.) They are unable to medicate further as many of the illnesses have a strict regime of medication. In addition, when fireworks are so random, how can counter measures be taken in advance?

To show the degree of feeling we have broken down the most popular words used in this segment.

Fireworks, Loud, Night, Suffer, Fear, PTSD, Anxiety, Sound, Display, Hear, Attacks, Explosives, Home, Scared.

We have included 33 statements that cover both the human and animal aspects, again illness of the member is a big point, including *a young girl who can slip into a coma at any point. Her family rely on her service dog to alert them when this happens, the dog is unable to carry out this life saving function when fireworks are being discharged as he is terrified.* It is not all about the owner or the animal it is about the symbiotic relationship of the two together that suffers.

We have again broken down the most popular words used by members in this section.

Fireworks, Dog, Night, Noise, People, Loud, Affected, Animals, Home, Stress, Scared, Stop, Suffer, Displays, Pets, Anxiety, Cats, Feel, Upset, Horses, Health, Problem, Prepare, Restrict, Sleep.

The largest section of our statements belongs of course to those members who speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. Those animals who live a traumatised life during the winter months. Those that not only live in our homes alongside us but the wildlife, the horses in stables/fields and the livestock that are not only sentient beings but are the means for some people to earn a living. Traumatized, stressed, scared and with even cases of abortion and having to be PTS due to injuries incurred from running away from fireworks.

From the 90 statements we have from members unsurprisingly the most used words are, Fireworks 329, Dog 169, Night 115, Noise 55, Home 49, People 47, Animals 46, Stress 44, Vet 40, Bang 39, Loud 37, Horses 36, Terrified 34, Evening 33, Shaking 32, Fear 32 Distressed 31.

Firework Human Statements

1. TA52 Bex

I would like to give you an insight as to how Firework Season impacts on the life of myself and my husband who suffers from Complex Combat PTSD & Enduring Personality Change After Catastrophic Reaction after serving ten years in the Armed Forces Please note the term Firework Season as it just seems to get longer and longer with each passing year, then just when you think it's safe along comes New Years Eve and we start all over again. He lives 'safely' in his bubble he has created to not only protect him but to protect us around him. Suddenly his bubble is no longer safe as all around him at any given time are fireworks. It's not only the sound or the flash. It's the smell and if close enough the feel of them going off. Firework Season for my husband means there is added anxiety, hyper vigilance and anxiety induced incontinence, less sleep, more nightmares and flashbacks. He doesn't eat when he's anxious, due to the PTSD and anxiety he now also suffers with GORD. The mix of GORD and hardly eating means more bile which in turn means should he actually manage to take enough of his medication and get to sleep he is either woken with a nightmare or the hell of choking on his own bile where he has been sick in his sleep. For myself there is being a loving wife watching all the afore mentioned and not being able to do a single thing to help him. If we do sleep in the same bed, I get the job of feeling him lying there shaking uncontrollably. But to be honest we rarely do as he worries about lashing out during a nightmare and hitting me. All we ask is that you consider the idea that it be organised displays only and only for a limited period around Guy Fawkes. At least the people like my husband and those with pets can at least be prepared. We had around six weeks of it, I know others are still enduring the season even now.

2. BS37 Ms AMP –Anon

Fireworks really affect me a lot (so does thunder but not as much) due to when I was little my cousin and brother picked me up and joked around pretending to throw me on the bonfire whilst fireworks were going around and also threw fireworks and crackers at me and my dad just loled and told me to man up as I was screaming and crying, I did get injured but not too seriously thankfully but the mental scars are always with me and every time I hear the real loud bangs I think it's another firework been shoved through the letterbox etc. Didn't help that my grandparents dog was petrified too and since that incident we always hid upstairs at my grandparents place under the bed.

The loud bangs are the worse especially when I can hear kids/adults messing around outside. My current rescue hamster is also freeked out by them and so were 3 out of my 7 rescued guinea pigs I had a few years ago. My toddler is also starting to pick up my fear which is not good but thankfully she's a sleep atm. Just hope the fireworks don't wake her up like last year which is another reason to hate them.

3. KA22 Shelagh

I do have pets and while none of them seem particularly bothered by fireworks, I am. I believe anyone setting them off uncontrolled (and by uncontrolled, I mean not at an official organised event with safety officers present) is not only committing a breach of the peace but risking the safety and wellbeing of

everyone else around them. We do not sell guns in this country for 'general' use so why do we actively market explosives and deem it acceptable to use them at certain times of the year?

4. PR4 WF –Anon

Hi, I wanted to write a personal statement about my experiences with fireworks. I'll try to make this compact as there are a lot of issues I have and it would be ridiculously long if I tried to include every little detail – I'll be including the minor personal details requested, as well as what I go through when fireworks occur, and my opinions about them. I thank you for your time and patience in advance.

I'm a 24 year old female living in the PR4 4AX area (Lancashire). I suffer from a hugely complex assortment of physical, psychological, and neurological conditions that make my life hell to endure - without the inconsideration of others on top. My main conditions that are aggravated by fireworks include (but are not limited to) Hyperacusis, various hypersensitivities, PTSD, ASD (Asperger's Syndrome/high-functioning autism), OCD, misophonia, phonophobia, anxiety (various), self-harm, depression, Diabulimia, Anorexia, body dysmorphia, T1 Diabetes, neuropathy, stage 1 blind with maculopathy and retinopathy, gastroesophageal reflux disease, and many more.

Fireworks are a massive trigger for everything for me. As soon as it gets dark I start having panic attacks, and fail to calm down until early morning, when I then spend my time being anxious about noise happening in the day, and ruminating and dreading the coming darkness yet again. When fireworks go off I can't breathe or think clearly; I completely lose my mental capacity and am often reduced to a whimpering, sobbing, wailing wreck of a child, violently shaking, hyperventilating, and pacing around drunkenly as I'm unable to keep my balance due to disorientation. My already-poor vision fizzles out into a white haze and my head screams at me as if it is about to explode. I'll throw my body and beat my head and fists against the walls, and scream and beg for the fireworks to stop - that I just can't take it anymore – that I want to die. Eating, drinking, going to the toilet, and taking medications I need to stay alive just aren't options. I can't wear earplugs or ear defenders because of my hypersensitivities, and trying to sleep or rest is impossible. I can't use other noise as a distraction as that would make things worse thanks to Hyperacusis. Having people there does nothing except physically holding me back from self-harming, and speaking over the phone is useless. Taking sedatives doesn't work as that just causes me to self-harm due to not being able to act on the anxiety building up inside – and trying to go elsewhere to escape? Not a chance as the damn things are going off in every part of the country. I've tried everything possible, and the only thing that works is the fireworks actually stopping. It doesn't matter how horrendously close or far away they are, or the types of bangs, whistles, and crackles that they make – the effect is all the same.

I fail to find any logical, rational reason for fireworks. They're a danger to everybody and everything. Can you imagine what would happen if a terrorist bought a load of the things and set them off in a crowded area, or made more deadly explosives using the components of shop-bought fireworks? It's ridiculous and senseless, and it needs to stop now. Not tomorrow, not next week, next month, or next year – now. In this day and age of 'red-taping' absolutely everything for 'health and safety' reasons, it is absurd to even consider selling explosives so freely to the general public.

27/01/2016 PR4 4AX 17:30pm-??? Constant loud bangs been going off 1 1/2 hours now, non-stop, can't cope with this, want to die, will log if they finish before I kill myself

27/02/2016 PR4 4AX 17:30PMish-19:40PMish. Constant loud bangs that never stopped. No notice or expectation. Had major panic attack(s), wanted to hurt and kill myself, couldn't stop hyperventilating or shaking. Still can't stop shaking. Can't walk for the disorientation. Head and mind shattered. Feels like I'm drowning. Can't calm down and won't be able to for a long time now. Will now have a panic attack at every noise and be terrified for weeks every day when the sky darkens to night. Ignorant, insolent "carer" didn't help. I'm beyond sick of suffering because of other people. Also taking the opportunity to mention this; in my statement I mentioned I banged my fists on hard surfaces and that I damaged them. Well, over 4 months on and a doctor visit confirms I actually gave myself stress fractures. They're healing, but sometimes the pain is so bad I can't use my hands at all, and using them in general is very uncomfortable as the movement is restricted. If the fireworks didn't happen, nor would this.

5. TN21 Jen

My fiancé is an army veteran and the fireworks affect him badly. Sudden bangs and flashes are triggers for his PTSD. This 6'2" strapping man can become a wee quivering mess fearing he's back in a war zone and it doesn't just go on for one "expected" night. It's for weeks before and after 5th November. Had a dog that panted, shook and tried to get into the smallest spaces to hide.

6. Debra and Ashley

Fireworks are the bane of my life. Not only do they scare my dogs to dangerous levels of stress which hurts me to the core, but I also find them much louder and hurtful than most as I am disabled, due to Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and I am also on the Autistic Spectrum. I can't just get away from them. They go off at any hour from school's out time till after midnight, and I have no warning, so with mobility problems I find it impossible to just up and leave my house. I live in Highland Scotland and the firework problem here has gotten much worse these last few years, increasing ten-fold each year, due to kids being able to buy or get others to buy from all manner of shops where they are on display and readily available. The fireworks start two weeks before bonfire night and continue nightly till well after new year. I have torn brain arteries and also very dangerous inoperable brain aneurysms due to my Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and I am supposed to stay stress free and live quietly to survive at all. My neck and spine are collapsing and my organs are prolapsing, even despite life-long surgeries until I became too high risk for more surgery since 2008. So when because of the Aspergers, I hear those awful fireworks much much louder than most, where it actually HURTS, I simply cannot up and leave the safety of my home when they go off indiscriminately. If it were just bonfire night only, like it used to be, I could arrange help to go somewhere quiet, but actually probably, since it would just be the big city arranged event, I could happily stay in my own home safe and happy with my doggy friends who are my big support, as I am 2-3 miles from our main Bonfire night event here. I don't think anyone possibly understands this issue from a disabled Autistic perspective. My daughter also has these same issues, and I know of many others who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder or life long genetic disabling conditions,

who also fear these loud bangs of horror around our own homes, which should not be like living in Beirut but should be a place of safety and sanctuary.

Thankyou for hearing us and please also hear the animals too.

7. KPC –Anon

My son has had many sleepless nights this year due to heavy duty fireworks being set off in our neighbourhood. He has ASD and is very sensitive to noise so fireworks are upsetting. He is 8 years old and for several weeks huge shell-like explosions were going off around us, leaving him visibly shaking and unable to sleep. He badly needs sleep as his behaviour and ability to cope with everyday life is severely affected by lack of sleep. These fireworks go off after his bedtime and on any day of the week, without warning. At times he has been so tired he has been crying. I would like to see category 3 fireworks limited to public displays only and all fireworks to be limited to bonfire night, the weekends either side and new year's eve. I would like their use on Diwali to be restricted.

8. Sophia

I'm not saying parts of Britain are a war zone or anything, but random fireworks going off I personally find alarming, because I have lived in various areas in London rife with gun crime and we would often hear shots. I maybe unlucky but i have been at home when a shooting happened on my street, and on another occasion a shooting happened opposite a shop i was working in. Both experiences were very frightening. Like many others, i have friends in Paris - someone I know survived Bataclan but is still walking around with shrapnel in his leg. I know we can't live in fear, but recently random fireworks have gone off in my otherwise quiet neighbourhood, not as a display but one off , random rockets. My children and I , I'm sorry to say, were scared and had a talk among ourselves to rationalize it. Given that we have ex-service people with PTSD and lots of victims of gun crime, might it not be better to confine use of fireworks to certain times of the year, do we all know where we stand?

9. KK Anon

I have complex PTSD and autism. For many reasons fireworks are very distressing to me.

Complex PTSD means that I startle easily to loud noises especially when they come out of the blue and are unexpected. Like fireworks. They make me jump and cause anxiety. Autism means that I find loud noises distressing, especially when there is no escape from them. Like fireworks. I can't wear ear plugs because my ears are too sensitive and the sound vibrates in my ears.

I have anxiety attacks when fireworks go off, which can last for hours. I fear for my pets as I have heard of animals having heart attacks or being injured.

I live in a flat and lots of different surrounding houses let them off at once for hours at a time and the sound is deafening - you would not believe how loud it was until you heard it. I fear that someone will accidentally shoot them off into our balcony or at our windows because these people are not trained

and most likely have been drinking alcohol all night first. There are many elderly people and young children in our block and I fear for them being scared as well.

They don't just go off on two nights of the year, it's other times as well and around 5th November they can last for weeks.

13. Steven

Please restrict firework sales and use to a reasonable level.

I write to you to let you know how annoying and worrying it is going about my business with them firing off and they are so very loud and scary that they affect my sleep which makes me less productive in my work so potentially I could lose my job.

There will be a large section of the community that it affects as well for example the elderly, infirm, ill, ex forces, animals the list would go on, most of these people are not able to tell you and so continue to suffer in silence. Who knows what the long term effect this will have on their health which then vital funds must be spent to combat this.

If that's not enough we all have to worry about who is able to get hold of these lethal weapons without knowing their intentions or what damage they may cause, for the same reasons we don't allow random people to have guns.

All this worry created just so a few people can enjoy this anti social activity so I ask you again please restrict firework sales and use to a reasonable level.

14. LF Anon

I just wanted to share the reason for me being here. I was a lay chaplain at Kenyatta National Hospital, the largest government hospital in Kenya, during the third worst terrorism attack in Kenyan history. I saw a lot of horrific and terrible things. I have nightmares about the patients often. I scare very easily, especially when I'm not prepared for a loud sound. Fireworks are the absolute worst! I also have issues with anger. When I get scared, I get angry.

15. Toni

My daughter was hit in the face by a firework at a paid pub display. The firework went into the crowd, burn several of my neices clothing and a cousins chest. My daughter took the worst of it. We as a family went along to this display presuming we were safe and presumed there were strict guidelines. This incident was reported to Tandridge District council who investigated. My daughters face is still scared but the psychological effects for us both are worse. In the weeks around firework night we dont go out and feel trapped in our home.

My cousin and her children were in the crowd at the Whitgift centre Croydon for the turning on of the Christmas lights last year when they where burnt to there faces and clothes burnt again a public display. My elderly neighbour is terrified he is was war veteran he shakes and cant leave his home this time of

year. Some thing needs to be done we should not be living in fear. The noise goes on for weeks and unless you have been a victim you would not understand the fear.

16. Adie

I have epilepsy and although am not light sensitive i am sound sensitive and certain repetitive noises set off my fits along with sleep deprivation from the fireworks going off at all hours.

17. Mr G

i visited the survey to see and found I could complete it. Husband hearing impaired and wears two digital aids but can't for the majority of the autumn/new year. He either has to grab them out of his ears when fireworks start unexpectedly near us or doesn't wear them because he doesn't want to be caught out and shocked out of his life...!

18. Janice

Saturday 28th February 20-30 mins @ 19.30-20.00 heard in OX11 8QG were being set off in Wallingford 8 miles away sounding like cannon fire or even bombing so so loud!!

19. Sheila

During the winter months I suffer with anxiety bought on by the sounds of the constant fireworks.

For me, it brings back the awful memories of back during the second world war, when my family had to hide underneath the table when the planes were going overhead. As a young child, the sounds of the bombs dropping were terrifying. I cannot being to think what the poor veterans go through with being bombarded by impromptu fireworks. At least official displays can be prepared for and enjoyed properly.

This period of time holds a lot of painful memories for me and when I hear the fireworks now, they appear to reverberate around my house, which transports me back to those very scary times of wondering if we were going to lose our family and friends, our homes or not. It was a very uncertain time in our lives which I don't wish to be reminded of.

20. Rachel

I've signed the petition and shared but it's not just pets that suffer! I have 3 dogs 2 are not bothered at all but my bitch is terrified of them she doesn't eat doesn't sleep just sits in the corner shaking, and my partner suffers from ptsd after serving 8 years in the army and 4 tours in afghan its horrible to see the effects have on both off them. He struggles just as much as my milli does! it infuriates me seeing fireworks on sale everywhere so cheaply!!!! It's about a month over the bonfire season around me it's horrific to sit and watch my partner and my sweet girl so shaken by it x

21. Angie

I suffer with a condition called Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN), a fairly rare neurological condition that is often referred to as the suicide disease due to the severity of pain.

There are several different triggers for TN attacks one of which is sudden loud noises and explosions. Knowing when there are going to be loud noises and explosions (the resonance of the explosion can add to the problem of triggers) is helpful, I can take additional medication in preparation and can keep somewhere safer to avoid the loud noise.

22. Heidi

We had an incident (a few years ago) when my husband's car was damaged by a rocket. It broke the windscreen but fortunately it did not enter the car. It left a nasty scotch mark on the bonnet. He could not drive it.. meant our niece had to drive me home.... 75 miles. I had to get my car. Drove us home...then had to drive him back to fetch his car.

Firework Statements Human and Animal

1. BN7 Ms JM –Anon

Fire work statement. Where to start, I guess by first stating I have no issue with professional well advertised displays, I can prepare for these. I cannot however prepare for garden fireworks and those just out to create a noise by letting off bangs and all hours of the day and night at any time of year.

I have four dogs of my own and run a canine services with my husband. 2 of my dogs are firework phobic and several of the dogs I care for are also firework and sound phobic. I watch these dogs respond in several ways they all act slightly differently, my terrier who is so terrified she runs around, ears pinned back and vomiting, sadly the vomit makes it almost impossible to medicate for the fear either via our vet or holistically, she shakes uncontrollably. My elderly collie cross barks as if the world is about to end and he feels the need to protect all of us from it, he is a worry as he has epilepsy.

My clients dogs display all of the pre-mentioned as well as fear from the presumed on set of bangs just because it has become dark outside, we observe winking of the face, ears drawn back, shaking and salivating.

Some have begun to generalize and now are fearful of banging vehicle doors, people slamming the lids on dustbins and big wheelie bins, air brakes on lorries and buses the list goes on and this is not to forget that summer brings clouds and thunder storms. The stress of watching an animal in such terrible fear and distress is utterly distressing for all of us who are caring for them.

What have fireworks done to me this year... well sadly myself and my family were at the Shoreham Air show and witnessed the terrible crash of the Hawker Hunter on to the road leading to the loss of 11 lives. We have all been traumatised. I have suffered panic attacks and flash backs, I jump at loud and unexpected noise, I guess I have a form of PTSD. I can cope with planned displays but I cannot cope with kids throwing bangers in the street or the addicts a few doors away letting fireworks off from their first floor window. I cannot cope with my neighbour letting off fireworks in their tiny back garden.

Fireworks have safety instructions on them, fall out zones, distance from buildings and roads very few people will read these instructions. Fireworks on sale to the public are meant to be brought and then

fired the same day, many people are storing these for days, weeks, months, either within their home or in their garden shed, this means that many people are living next door to explosives and have no idea, this scares me.

I live in Lewes the firework capital, I have been an active member of the bonfire societies and was taught by my husband simple fire working skills. I do not want to see an end to god well run events such as Lewes but I do want greater restrictions on the sale of fireworks to the public. I am tired of being afraid and watching my pets suffer in terror.

2. BS23 Ms JM –Anon

The following is my statement of how fireworks have affected me, my pets and how I personally have seen it affect others.

For me I actually am scared of the bangs, it's daft for a grown woman to find noises scared but I suffer with tinnitus and loud noises actually hurt my ears. I live in a seaside town, my home is surrounded by others homes in close proximity and during fireworks season I find the noise and the vibration from multiple homes hosting very loud and big home displays overwhelming. I suffer with anxiety and depression and find that during the season I have to get home or inside as quickly as possible, I cannot cope with being outside during any displays.

My previous dog was petrified of fireworks, even when I lived on a farm on the outskirts of the same seaside town, the sheer number of homes hosting displays at the same time was too much for her to cope with. I used supplements to help keep her calm but she would still suffer as soon as the season changed, my confident and outgoing girl would become petrified of the dark from October to February every year. To help her cope we could never leave her alone at night, we became prisoners in our own home during the season just so we were there to look after her. We had to be very careful as the knock on effect with a stressed out dog was behavioural problems, she had a short fuse around other dogs so walks had to be carefully managed and of course timed to ensure we were home before dark. Due to a medical condition she was not a candidate for drugs, but why should I force my dog to become a spaced out zombie because selfish people had to blow up hundreds of pounds in personal home bombs. The worst moment was when a display nearby went off and as I opened the oven door to put our tea in, she rushed to climb inside the oven, it was on, it was hot and I only just stopped her.

As a care worker I have been visiting our elderly and vulnerable members of the community, some with mental health issues and having to comfort them in my brief visit and knowing that I leave them alone to cope with their fears, a fear I fully understand as I stated earlier I am scared of them myself. It is heart breaking to know that these vulnerable people have to be subjected to extremely loud fireworks for not just days, weeks or months, they are scared and stressed out the whole time.

What fun do people like this actually have?

It is not that a few are being killjoys, it is that a few are actually selfish. There is no need to have loud fireworks for home displays, no need to have these monstrosities of home bombs in general sale for

anyone to buy. The big problem is home displays, general public use fireworks are random. They go off at any time, they go off on anyway with no warning, no chance for preparation by others that need to. The public might just have set times they can buy the fireworks but they certainly do not stock to setting them off during this time, nor do they adhere to the curfew time and fireworks are going off well into the early hours on any day, not just New Year's Eve.

3. CR3 Austin

We have sold our house, the house where I was born and thought I'd end my days in, built in 1926 it's only ever been in my family, we are moving to rural Wales 255 miles away to get away from the firework menace that seems to plague most towns in the UK. We are moving mainly because of noise pollution, the majority of which is caused by random excessively loud fireworks day and night at any time on any day. We also have far more traffic and general noise than we would like but the fireworks have clinched it for us. We feel let down by the current government at it's denial that fireworks cause a menace and in their misguided belief that the current laws and rules are being sufficient and are being adhered to by the majority who use fireworks.

Fireworks scare my dogs and my chickens, we have had fireworks ALL hours, nearly every night apart from a few days from the beginning of October to nearly end of December and it will go on until the first few days in January, then calms down a bit but it doesn't stop completely and it will be a regular event at weekends from March onwards. All in all, I can say from experience we have fireworks EVERY day for 9 months of the year.

I have had a hen injured this year through panic after a local golf course holding a function for a Wedding had such loud fireworks late at night and with no warning it scared my poultry and dogs beyond belief, loudest I have ever heard. Numerous complaints by dozens of locals still didn't result in any action being taken and so it continues. The hen in question had a bad leg for nearly 2 weeks after. The noise set off car alarms down our road and we are approx 1.3 miles away from that golf club, what decibel level is required to achieve that I wonder, it had our windows rattling. My dog tore up the furniture in a desperate attempt to hide. Not content with that, a month later we hit October and then the noise and frequency increases, it's the locals this time who are setting fireworks off, not the golf course. I lost 3 newly hatched Magpie ducklings (rare breed) that a broody hen had just hatched out, the hen was so scared she either knocked the ducklings out of the nest at night or they fled in panic at the noise, 2 died of the cold and 1 she pecked to death the next morning, I put this down to the sheer volume and frequency of Halloween fireworks going off all round here, hours on end from before dark until 1.25 am the next morning. It's utterly heartbreaking to see my pets absolutely terrified and know there's nothing I can do to stop it. We have got and tried all the remedies for the dogs, sedation, rescue remedy and herbal calmers, plug in diffusers, anxiety wraps, desensitizing cd's, turning the tv up loud, ignoring the dogs, you name it, we have used it, it might take the edge off but will not stop the fear completely.

This year we saw a dramatic increase in volume, frequency of fireworks and how much more scared our pets are getting to the point where they won't go outside at all after dark and sometimes during the day

too. My hens weren't scared of noises 3 years ago, they are now, out of my 3 dogs, 1 is terrified, 1 is becoming scared and has started hiding and 1 luckily isn't bothered, at the moment. It's not only my pets and livestock that fear fireworks it upsets my Mum too who lived through the Blitz here near the Kenley WW2 airfield in 1940 which the loud fireworks remind her of, as a child of 6 years of age on her way home from school she was chased down the road by a Messerschmitt 109 and shot at, bullets hitting the road behind her as she ran, to her, that's where firework noise takes her. As I write this at 6.03 pm fireworks have started up (29-12-15) outside which have sent one of my dogs running for cover YET again.

4. CV12 Linda

Firework Misery For a number of years now from about the middle of October till sometime in January I have a curfew. I have to be home by dusk because of fireworks upsetting my dogs and cat. My neighbours are not animal lovers so if the dogs bark because they are scared it causes problems. So I can't go out socialising over Christmas and New Year, my partner's birthday is November 7th another celebration that can't be enjoyed. The dogs refuse to go in the garden when it gets dark sometimes because just when you think it's safe another deafening barrage goes off. The thing is though these aren't even in my street and even with the TV, CD player and radio on at strategic points these bombs can still be heard. Why should I and a great many others be subjected to this. It's cruel to not just domestic pets but those in fields and the wild. Everyone that you speak to with animals or not are fed up of it. Please do something about the noise level and restrict sales to the public so that only a few days a year are marked. With the current situation re terrorists should we need to wonder is it fireworks or an attack? Think of the elderly and more vulnerable amongst us. There are quiet pretty fireworks to be had these should be the only ones used. Because of several conditions the winter months are a nightmare for me health wise anyway without the stress of fireworks adding to it. At the moment my fibromyalgia is having a surge and in addition Vertigo has returned. I have also just had a ultra sound on my abdomen because of pain. Most of this has been brought on since October the start of "silly season" aka firework hell. I live on my own and my mobility is affected severely at this time of the year. Seeing my dogs upset and not been able go out and enjoy a normal life because of fireworks being let off anytime any place is not how I want to spend the rest of my winters. There is no reason for fireworks to be used this way

5. HU5 Mark

I have suffered with ME/CFS for at least 3 years and it has caused a web of physical and mental problems, including a compromised nervous system, which has left me increasingly sensitive to noise, especially when from unnecessary and thoughtless sources.

In relation to fireworks this year they commenced on 31st October and lasted for 8 nights (HU5). For the first 3 nights I held myself together as best I could and tried to deal with it all, but by night 4 I was completely struggling. My evenings were consumed by near constant firework noise, which penetrated my walls, roof and windows. I even had to endure them between 10pm & 1am... making me angry in bed, when I was supposed to be resting!

I was unable to watch any TV that week, unable to read, unable to hold a conversation with my lodger or anyone on the phone. I literally had to sit there and endure it all for 6 hours per evening, with no ability to concentrate on ANYTHING, due to overwhelming (negative) emotional responses like anger, frustration, irritability, annoyance and anxiety. It all 'consumed' me, like I was in some kind of trance!

I used to have a cat who was terrified of fireworks. She would scurry around from room to room trying to 'hide'. It was awful to see, and the stress transferred to me, which I completely absorbed being in a compromised state of health. During the last 2 years of her life I used to sit with her in the (internal) hallway cupboard, with the door closed, so she was exposed to less noise, with it having no external walls or windows. Why should people have to go to these measures, especially on multiple evenings because people can't stick to the official date?

Some things we have to put up with as a society, but fireworks are a totally unnecessary evil! 120db is way too high.

6. LU3 DH – Anon

They affect me quite severely, I have rare neurological disease with high risk of coma, the pets too, we have to turn the telly up, reassure them etc to try calm them, Inc the bird as she now flinches even when someone enters the room.

I'm not good at explaining hun. Sorry. ThT one affect of my attacks being constant. The pets can't go out until we are satisfied they stopped incase something happens

7. NE37 Wendy

8 Nov 2015 this is my 90 yr old mothers rescue dog lying terrified in a makeshift tent after paying £35 for a thunder jacket that still didn't calm her nerves This time of year brings fear and misery to my family my mother has Alzheimer's and the dog is her companion and her comfort I not only have weeks of dealing with an anxious terrified dog but an equally confused frightened old lady who thinks people are banging on her door when it is fireworks Please put a stop to fireworks they are not an important part of life what is the argument for them apart from money. 12/11/15 rubbish left from fireworks set off in public place housing estate

8. RG22 Emma

As part of this campaign I was asked to write a personal statement around my experience living through fireworks for weeks on end and how it has affected me, my family and my pets. This is what I wrote:

We have lived in our house for 4 1/2 years now and even before we had our son, fireworks had never been an issue here. Yes, we had a few on bonfire night and at new years but those are understandable and sometimes (if early enough) can be enjoyable. We had no issues last year, I remember as my son was only 11 months in November and I worried they would wake him but it was very very quiet. This year I had just assumed it would be the same.....but then Halloween came. We celebrated with a little party for Jake's friends (aged 1-3) and enjoyed trick or treaters coming until 8pm. Then it went quiet so

we thought it was safe to put him to bed (we kept him up later to ensure no one would wake him). We were wrong and that was the start of a nightmare that continued almost every night for about 3/4 weeks. The loud bangs would wake my son, have him screaming and constantly saying the word bang all day and night. He didn't understand it and he worried about them happening. My dog is 13 years old, a border terrier. She has always been a little worried about fireworks but never to the extent that we have seen this year. She literally could not stop shaking for nights on end and I was in tears thinking she could have a heart attack at any time. It got to the point where I knew enough was enough so I rang the vets for advice. I went up and was shown so many different products, I couldn't believe what they could offer, proving what issues other pet owners face nowadays. We spent £15 of our money that we are in desperate need of for more important things, on sedating type products to help calm my poor old girl, let her sleep and rest. I was devastated having to feed her the calming stuff and I worried further that it may affect her too much and her heart at such an old age. We also bought rescue remedy as she was so worked up she needed something extra. Now why should I have to spend out money that could go on a food shop to sedate my dog, which I don't want to do all because people are becoming so inconsiderate?!!! My upset turned to anger over the coming weeks and at times I felt I was losing it and it caused arguments between myself and my husband. My boy was waking, he was scared, he was tired, we then became tired as we weren't getting a break and then when we did get into bed we couldn't sleep due to the loud bangs going off at all times of night. My dog would be shaking, my cat hid under the bed and I would lie there waiting for my son to wake up screaming again. Once that horrendous period was over my household returned to the happy place it usually is. I forgot how bad it got but I was being lured into a false sense of serenity.....xmas eve arrived and off we go again. My son's birthday is xmas day. We had a busy couple of days celebrating, seeing family and preparing. He went to bed xmas eve and me and my husband excitedly began wrapping, building things, decorating the room etc. We were up to our necks in presents when at 9:30pm great big bangs erupted very close to our home. I leapt off the sofa it was that loud and then Jake woke screaming. The night before his birthday, when he should be tucked up in bed asleep looking forward to his day and he was crying his little eyes out. As I held him and calmed him it all got too much for me and I just sat there crying my eyes out with him. How dare these people be so selfish, how dare they make my son cry like that and how dare they ruin our xmas eve which should be happy and peaceful. How many children do you think were in bed sleeping hoping that when they woke father xmas would have been, and how many would have been woken crying because of scary loud bangs late at night?! The average time for a young child to go to bed is 7-8pm. Why on earth do people think its ok to set these off after 9pm? Then xmas day comes....xmas day!!!! Yes thats right we now celebrate with fireworks don't you know! So at 4pm my poor dog is terrified and shaking and cowering just as family have come over to celebrate my son's birthday. Instead of focussing on him and his day I am now trying to settle my dog and calm her down (I refused to sedate her on xmas day, it's not fair on her). But just xmas isn't enough, oh no when I am utterly exhausted I have to lay in bed listening to yet another inconsiderate person let them off at 10pm on the 27th. I have put up with the noise, the scared pets and baby since 31st October and I am sure there are many more to come. I have heard them go off at 3pm, 9pm, 10pm and even at 1am. When you have no idea when they are going to happen you cannot prepare for them, you don't know how long it will last and you don't risk leaving your home for fear of losing your pet. The stress, upset, anger, tears and despair has all affected me over the last few months to such a degree that I have asked my husband if we can move

next year (out of the house we said would be our forever home) because if next year becomes worse I really do not think we will be able to handle it. The firework restriction needs to be brought in as soon as possible to help people live happier and more peaceful lives during these festivities

9. RH10 Tracy

So bonfire night is ONE day, remember, remember the 5th of November, it is now 11th November and fireworks are still being let off, next is Diwali which will mean more. With plenty more odd bangs and cracks going off where "kids" have managed to get hold of them and are letting them off (hubby saw this the other night first hand!) They not only affect the thousands of animals around the country, which then affects the whole family watching their poor defenseless pets being petrified or worse and not to mention all those animals that don't have the comfort of a loving home, but also has a large impact on the very young/not so young and the many, many men and women that have been in a war zone or conflict and the poor survivors of terrorist attacks, I could go on..... BAN them from being sold to the public, STOP supermarkets etc from selling them and limit the public displays to one weekend, surely that is enough for everybody!!!!

10. S45 Jenny

For the past 11 years I have dreaded my neighbours having their fireworks as it terrifies my cats. I find it heart breaking having to watch them being frightened by the loud bangs, sizzles and squealing fireworks they let off. He climbs the curtains and bites and scratches at the door in his panic to get out of the house, some times I have been reduced to tears as I just wanted the bangs to stop and I felt so helpless to be able to do anything about them. I wanted to protect my pets from the suffering they were experiencing and I could do nothing except try to calm them with calming tablets, which did help a little. My cats, one in particular remains traumatized for days afterwards he walks around outside with his head looking up in the air for fireworks going up and is very jumpy and anxious at the slightest noise. He will just start to settle down after a few days when some idiot will let off a banger, and I want to cry because I can't stand to have my pets frightened like this. I want to get hold of who ever has let off the firework and shake them by the throat and scream at them to BLOODY STOP IT. I was reprieved from my neighbours fireworks this year as their children weren't bothered about having any, Thank God for that!! It also upsets my mother who is 87 as she doesn't like to see the cats in distress with the fireworks going off, and she worries about other people's pets that are being frightened by them. I also worry about all the birds and wildlife that are frightened by the fireworks, all in all the three months of firework hell is very upsetting and stressful for me.

11. SK13 Barbara

My name is Barbara Cadogan and I live in the SK13 area of NW UK. I am 66 and had two cats. One was put to sleep end of November. This year has been the worst for fireworks. They started on Halloween and lasted until New Year. Some were let off in daylight! My cat who was suffering from heart failure spent the last few weeks of his life in fear crawling around on his belly and hiding under my bed. I have not been well myself and this situation put me under a lot of stress. My Tesco delivery man told me he was stopped at traffic lights in Hyde Cheshire and thugs of around 16/18 fired a rocket at his windscreen

and it also hit the car next to him. Needless to say he was very shocked by the situation. He called the police and all they did was give him an incident number. He also reported it to his employer. My neighbour is a community nurse and has also had fireworks aimed at her. My daughter had the same outside her Uni in Salford. For safety's sake the sale of fireworks should be stopped to the public because they are dangerous weapons and it has increased. It has affected my life badly past two years and the lives of others especially pet owners. Stop the sale of fireworks to the public now

12. M6 KM –Anon

I live in Sutton south London, and every night since new year someone has been letting off fireworks. They only let two or three off, but every night since new year? It is a nuisance, I suffer with PTSD and I have a Staffordshire bull terrier who panics and tries to dig his way out of the house every time it happens. It takes three or four hours to calm him down, but I am wound up for the rest of the night and the next day knowing what's going to happen later in the evening. ...The police and local council are not interested as they say by the time they get out it will have stopped so they cant catch the people letting them off. And they cant sit out in the housing estate all night just in case someone lets a firework off. Its now got to the point where it is affecting my work and my relationship with my wife and family as I am constantly losing my temper and feel like I am being made to suffer because the local authority won't act. I am reaching breaking point all because if some idiots who find it funny to let a couple of fireworks off on a whim.

13. SN3 JW –Anon

I'm disabled myself with a condition known as Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syncope; basically I become unconscious regularly. My dog is trained to arouse me if I become unconscious. When my dog is this upset, it means that she isn't really focused to do her job. She is not a certified assistance dog but she does the job of one by making sure I do wake from my unconscious spells - she gets help from others in the household if she struggles to arouse me. When she is upset like this, it is not only bad for her as she is deeply upset but could seriously impact on my health too as I rely on her to awake me so much!

I usually play her bonfire works c.d on days I know when bonfire works will occur - the weekend before, the week of and weekend after bonfire night. Christmas and new year. Obviously, you wouldn't expect them on dates like 24th of Jan, so her c.d was not playing. Maybe something like the queens birthday you'd make an exception for or other celebratory dates... but you can't play the c.d every single day just in case bonfire works may happen. My dog was very traumatised last night and spent about 3 hours hiding under the bed as this is her safe place... she wouldn't even snap out of it for her favourite toy or dog treat (being a labrador x she is rather food obsessed) so for her to refuse food is kind of unheard of!

14. SR8 Siobhan

I have anxiety. Often it is caused by extreme loud bangs Fireworks mean I can't leave the house what so ever I panic, I have to hide under my duvet and take relaxants. I often do not sleep either as I'm afraid

my house might get set on fire by them. It affects my cats too. They hide and are scared half to death. They hide all day and night especially around bonfire night.

They're the worst things ever imaginable and they ruin lives like mine

15. MsMF Anon

My/our experience: I am carer for my neighbour Paul since his heart attack Oct 2014. He lives alone with his 13 year old rescue dog Charlie. Every day we three go to the park to exercise Charlie; this is also a very important part of Paul's cardiac recovery. Firework season is extremely stressful for Charlie, who pants, trembles, drools and scrambles to find a safe place. It can take hours for him to calm afterwards 2 - 3am. Paul loses sleep too. The vet prescribed Zylkene for Charlie, and we tried a ThunderShirt this year. Perhaps of some help? Paul is on benefits so income is limited. I help where I can. Firework explosions add to general stress for Paul, especially since health has been challenged. Evening walks are impossible for the duration (2 -3 weeks). We live in South Harrow with a large Asian population and big Diwali celebrations. We had Charlie here with us for one evening when Paul had to go out. Very distressing. My partner and I both pleaded with (new) neighbours to stop letting off loud explosive fireworks in adjacent garden. When they continued, my partner became very angry and shouted at them. I felt distraught and helpless, trying to keep Charlie calm... My heart goes out to all beings affected. Attached 2 pictures are from fireworks 2014, Charlie trying to find shelter from the din. And this summer in the park ... his usual carefree self.

16. Karen

When hare gets upset with the fireworks It not only upsets myself because there seems to be nothing that help ease her suffering, but it also makes my 13 year old autistic son distressed ,he doesnt understand why she is climbing the walls, wimpering trying to hide anywhere and everywhere, The weeks leading up to nov 5th and afterwards mean he doesnt sleep well with all the bangs normally but hares distress makes matters worse. My daughter age 10 understands better but it make her upset as well.

17. WS Anon

I am absolutely terrified of fireworks. I never used to be but gradually over the years the fireworks have got louder and louder to the point where it feels like we are in a war zone plus we cannot plan for it. I dread each day between October and December and spend hours worrying myself sick about when we are going to be subjected to this curse because that is what it feels like to me – a curse. It used to be just November 5th, then it became November 5th and Diwarli with a small amount on New Years Eve but now it seems like right from October to end December we are bombarded by these things on a daily basis never knowing when someone will let them off. New Years Eve was ruined for me because about 8pm the most horrendous noise started which continued until 1am in the morning. I was in tears. I have 7 cats – they are terrified of them. They are not good for the environment, they frighten old people and war veterans, no body ever thinks of field and wild animals and how terrified they are and what damage can be caused. If it was up to me I would ban them completely but I realise this is impossible so

am asking for a ban on fireworks being sold to the general public, stop greedy supermarkets from selling them at all and restricting the use of public displays to a few days in the year only which would be made public. I also ask if the noise levels in fireworks could be reduced – they certainly never were this loud. It seems to be all about noise now and they are a noise nuisance. I also feel that they breach all Health and Safety rules especially in these days of terrorism. If fireworks were banned and kept to public displays only (which also should be regulated) people would soon get used to it and it would stop the yobbos using these fireworks to upset and terrorise people.

18. Sarah

Summary of what happened On the 4th of November in broad daylight my daughter aged 11 her friend 14 and an adult from our yard in shiney Rowe were riding along hunter street in shiney row on there pony's when sum one decided it would be a good idea to throw a firework at them of course as quiet as the pony's are they spooked causing them to bolt which ended up in the adult been thrown from her horse luckily the 2 children managed to stay on there pony's and bring them to a stop with help from a couple of local residents the children did manage to get off just in time before the horses took flight again causing them to run into a main rd not only leaving my daughter and friends shaking and scared they endangered the lives of these girls and others we did have to have an ambulance called to treat minor injuries and police were informed

19. Samantha

From a personal point of view, I have two rescue cats, and a horse. Both cats have recovered well from the abuse received in their previous lives, but no longer feel safe outdoors, and are now house cats. Despite being in the safety of their home, whenever fireworks are being released (and they do not have to be in the direct vicinity) they become stressed. One runs in sheer panic, and will find the smallest hiding place she can – it can be hours after the fireworks have finished before she calms down, and feels safe enough to tentatively come out of her hiding place. The other freezes, and will allow us to hold him tight while trying to comfort him and calm him. Their terror is so extreme that they have hurt themselves, running into closed doors etc in their attempts to escape. The other fear is the risk of heart attacks. Other measures we have to take whenever fireworks are being released is ensuring that we have the TV or radio on (at a high volume to try and cover the sounds of blasts) at all times of day – this does not make us popular with our neighbours, but they at least understand the reason. Their understanding starts to wear thin when this is continual for weeks at a time due to the extended periods people release fireworks, purely because they can. My husband and I both start to believe our hearing is being affected as a result too. We also rethink any plans that we have from early October onwards, until well into the New Year – if we don't have to go out, then we don't – our lives are pretty much on hold every time there is a period of fireworks. All the work of the last 5 years rehabilitating them both from their traumas is undone during this period – the only solace we can take is that they look to us for care and comfort during these periods. It is heart wrenching every time we witness how quickly their fear and terror can return, and how much they now rely on us to make them feel safe and secure and loved. Whilst this may seem an extreme reaction, and these are only cats – we are responsible for their

care and wellbeing, both physically and emotionally. Would a parent leave a distressed child with no comfort or attempts to alleviate the impact of the terror?

With regards to my horse – there is always a decision to be made. Which is safer, keeping her in her stable, at risk of kicking out/rearing and breaking her limbs or leave her in a field, and run the risk of her running into the fencing/trees or escaping out into the road and be at risk from harm. There is sadly no right decision here – each firework leaves her at risk. Even worse is the risk to me or anyone around me should a firework be released during daylight hours (which does happen, as children do get hold of fireworks despite the laws) – if I'm riding her on the roads or bridlepaths then it leaves me at risk of serious, life changing or even fatal injury, as well as her wellbeing and other road users being at danger. Whilst she is as rock solid at they come, even she reacts, and there are times when I have to put my safety first, and so she does not get ridden on these days – she is either lunged or given the day off. I am not a brave rider, so during the 'firework season' she gets less ridden work than she should get, which is not good.

One other point to add, is that despite this Petition being worded with regards to animals, there are numerous health issues that are aggravated by fireworks. Both my husband and I suffer from asthma, and we are both affected by the smoke from fireworks. In the current situation, we can almost guarantee that one or both of us is at risk of an asthma attack – the result of which could be an ambulance needing to be called, a trip to A&E, and at the very worst one of us could become part of the death statistics for asthma related deaths. We do our best to manage our asthma, and so far, whilst having attacks, we have managed to control them with no further need for help. . It would be far better for us to feel safer in the knowledge that we can venture out of our house after a defined timescale, where fireworks are no longer permitted.

20. DR Anon

About 3 Bonfire Nights ago, I was walking my Great Dane during daylight hours (around 4pm) on a footpath when we came across some children and adults with sparklers in a paddock adjacent to the path. We passed without incident, however when we were about 20 metres on (and when the footpath was very close to joining a road) the group let off some fireworks. My Great Dane was completely spooked and tried to run away, almost dragging me in front of a car. I maintain to this day it was done on purpose, as I see no reason why you would set off fireworks in daylight as they can hardly be seen? Unfortunately, I couldn't report this as no laws were broken - the law allows fireworks during daylight hours (why?) and the fireworks were let off on private property. Since this incident, my dog now shivers and shakes indoors at the sound of fireworks (and gunshots during shooting season, as we live in a semi rural location), stressed enough that he has to go hide in a dark tight corner. Not easy for a Great Dane!

I also have horses. One cannot be stabled during loud fireworks due to injuring himself by trying to escape his stable one year and therefore being a risk to himself - and the public if he were to become loose. Instead, I have to ensure they are out in the field, however my other horse was injured trying to escape the field due to prolonged fireworks (they are kept at home on 10 acres, but still far too close to neighbouring properties for the firework noise level that is deemed acceptable by law). They will

actually stand and watch fireworks if they are relatively quiet, but consistently repeating and echoing bangs cause the horses to want to take flight as is their nature. As they can't flee due to being fenced in, they will do almost anything to get away including put themselves in danger - which culminated in my horse trying to jump out of the field but getting his back legs caught halfway over on the fence.

I suffer from severe anxiety and depression. Because of the stress my animals are under, I now abhor fireworks when I used to love them. I find it difficult, sometimes impossible, to leave the house for over firework season (especially during hours of darkness) for fear and anxiety over what may happen with my animals if I leave them alone - not just for them, but for fears of public safety if they were to get out into public spaces. This inevitably leads to a worsening of my depression at this time of year, resulting in higher dosage of my medication in order to cope. During this last Bonfire period, I found myself constantly in tears for almost a week and unable to leave the house, even during daylight hours. What should be an enjoyable family period is torture because I have no control over when fireworks will go off, for how long, or how often - for at least an entire month around Bonfire Night!

I personally would prefer that:

- 1) The decibel level of fireworks (private and public) were reduced - far fewer animals would initiate the fear flight response and it would not affect the enjoyment of fireworks by humans at all
- 2) Fireworks were only allowed during hours of darkness until 11pm, not from 7am daylight hours
- 3) A shorter range of dates be available for private fireworks displays, rather than just a limit on when they are sold.

21. Coral

By family, I am also including the family pets as every living creature in our house is regarded as family!

Let us start with the eldest generation in the family, my mother. My mother was brought up in London during the war and as a child was subjected to the terrifying sights and sounds that took place during those years. When fireworks are prevalent she is immediately transported back to those times, sounds, smells and sights. In fact she relives it over again...and again. In her latter years I feel she should be able to live a peaceful existence with happy memories, not dread. Move to a more rural area I hear you say. Well she lived in rural Staffordshire and it is bad enough there. God knows what city living would do!

If it is that bad for her I am sure there are plenty of others of her generation and also those of younger years who have experienced the trauma of war and are similarly affected by the loud bangs and flashes. Of course today they call it post traumatic stress disorder and for some there is therapy which may or may not work for some, the older generation just had to 'live with it' and still are!!

I now turn my attention to the family pets. My dogs are mildly irritated by the noise. By 'the noise' I mean the constant barrage of bangs, flashes and ground shuddering blasts that are a nightly occurrence from two weeks before Bonfire Night (notice the 'night' bit) and a week into January. Yes I am aware

there are date and time restrictions on the use of these potentially lethal weapons but sorry guys, I hate to say it but the news hasn't filtered through!!

Like I say, my dogs are mildly irritated, they bark a lot, they annoy the neighbours...as does the multi decibel volume on the television whilst I try to drown it out (sadly we don't have the same taste in TV programmes. I did once try a touch of opera thinking it would have a calming effect but she just banged on the wall. As opera doesn't have that kind of underlying beat it ruined the whole effect.

My mother's dog on the other hand is completely terrified. My mother has often spoken about how she cannot calm her down and how problematic she becomes. Her year they came to stay with me thinking she might be calmer amid my pack. This year I witnessed the pacing, the fur tearing, the whining and ultimately the fear aggression that the distress caused. Every possible 'aid' has been tried..and failed and some of these are quite costly.

Now, I am not a party pooper, I don't expect the world to dance to my tune but I do think compromise has a lot going for it... We know we can expect fireworks on certain nights of the year and that is great for those who enjoy them and we can prepare.. it is the element of surprise (or maybe not so these days) of the days in between. The randomness of the onslaught is both stressful and inconvenient for all concerned. It affects social interaction in that none of us feel able to leave the house of an evening during this extended period for fear of what we might meet when we return. My mother has returned to a chewed kitchen door. Faeces and urine and vomit which are all fear induced reactions from a perfectly normally and well behaved dog the rest of the year.

Please consider more restrictions or better policing on times, availability and usage. Consider legislation on reducing the deafeningly, window rattlingly loud bangs which are so not necessary. It is after all, the colourful display that firework lovers covet right??

22. Dr A

This morning I signed the petition to limit the use of fireworks in the UK. While I recognize that people enjoy the spectacle, and with it comes the noise, I also recognize the detrimental effect particularly of the loud bangs.

I've read the government's response to the petition and all I can say is that they should come to my house during the curfew periods and all those days that people aren't supposed to use fireworks.

The period 15 October to 10 November -- the 'traditional firework periods of Bonfire Night' -- is an absolute nightmare to many of us. Often people focus on 5 November but begin their celebrations early in October and continue until late November. Last 5 November people stopped firing off the noise makers at midnight only to start again at 1.00am for another couple of hours. Throughout the period curfews were frequently ignored -- indeed, I doubt very seriously that those using the fireworks even knew there were curfews.

Our local fireworks shop encourages people to use fireworks all year long by advertising their wares as not just for holidays but also for birthdays, anniversaries and any special occasion. Apparently people

are finding all sorts of occasions to use them, including one night last week (Wednesday, 3 February) when they started shooting them off at 7.00pm and continued off and on for an hour.

Some shops may restrict when people can purchase fireworks, but that doesn't stop people from keeping them on hand and using them whenever they wish.

The impact of this is not only to animals (and yes, I do have dogs, one of which is particularly tortured by the sound), but also to people who are sensitive to loud noises and many of us who have to live with fireworks until all hours of the night and then go to work the next day. In my case, because of a chronic illness I have to be in bed by 9.30pm, and fireworks going off until the government's 11.00pm curfew on weekdays sometimes for days or weeks at a time makes sleep impossible and work difficult. Worse are people with PTSD and other illnesses for which such loud noises are traumatic.

An additional problem is that no one can plan when the noise is going to start or end. Since people shoot off fireworks whenever they choose, those who find the noise problematic are at their mercy. And trying to determine who is shooting them off in order, perhaps, to ask them nicely not to, is impossible since the noise reverberates off walls -- there's no way to find out who it is.

I don't want to spoil people's fun, but limiting fireworks to official displays would be a great help to many

23. S.W

Every time we are subjected to random fireworks locally the effect on our home and family can be quite traumatic. We have an Autistic son who gets very distressed when there are unexpected fireworks, if we know to expect fireworks we can warn him in advance so he is better prepared and then he is less traumatised. Our dog gets distressed, possibly because she picks up on the anxiety/distress of our son. We also have horses who are kept locally, but not at our property, in the past I have had fireworks being set off over the top of the field where my horses are kept, which for them was obviously terrifying and led to leg injuries which I was fortunate turned out to not be serious, another time I might not be so lucky, there is also the possibility that being flight animals they could panic and break out of their field which could be extremely dangerous if they were to end up on the roads. If I know to expect fireworks I can arrange enough cover to monitor the horses and also deal with the trauma at home.

24. Lesley

I am writing you this statement so it will hopefully help your campaign, my eldest German shepherd used to be absolutely terrified of these horrible things, there was no pacifying him, we tried all sorts, spent endless amount of money to no avail. Not only was my dog frightened of fireworks but any loud noises really. Which brings it to me, I get very jumpy at loud noises, whist I'm out the slightest noise makes me jump, I as well as my dog hate fireworks. So the sooner they are restricted the better. It's the not knowing when they are going to be let off, I think that's the worst part. If they where restricted then at least we can prepare ourselves.

25. Heidi

Stanley is a dog that I have had as a puppy, we bred him. He is a gundog so in theory should be fine with fireworks.

We noticed in the year 2014 that Stanley had suddenly become scared of the noise created by fireworks. He would hear any fireworks before we did, so it started with noises that were not all that close.

His symptoms are shaking, panting, restlessness and shaking uncontrollably. The trembling is particularly disturbing.

During that year particular season I was ill prepared for treating Stanley but did have some valerian and skullcap which is supposed to be a herbal sedative. This has no effect whatsoever.

Roll on to Christmas 2014/New Year 2015, I had by now had the chance to buy a DAP collar. This is a pheromone based product. Which is meant to simulate the same soothing smells that the mother dog releases when she has her puppies, so is meant to represent a safe and reassuring environment. Sadly....this product made no difference either. (even though I continued with the herbal remedy).

August 2015 (National Firework Competition The Hoe, Plymouth).

Having now done a lot of investigative work on a variety of treatments that can help an animal suffering with anxiety and stress caused by the unpredictable banging I now have a situation that is "managed". Stanley wears a thunder shirt, has calming spray and sedatives. "Manage" is all we do. By this I mean, I now sedate Stanley from 4pm onwards every evening that the fireworks can be predicted. However sedating Stanley for an 8hr period every day for a solid two week time during November, on top of this Stanley is also sedated for the fireworks that I cannot predict. This means we are playing catch up with any remedies we give him. The frustration of not knowing when fireworks might go off is that I find my dog distressed, I give him the medication that works, you then might not get another firework for three hours as these are not part of a display. So this could result in Stanley being sedated all evening on the basis of a couple of fireworks.

If fireworks are permitted to only a few specified festivals and authorised displays this gives me the chance to medicate Stanley appropriately rather than dosing him up just in case the first firework is the start of an entire evening of fireworks.

The problem most definitely lies with the unpredictability of fireworks. Planning is the key in controlling the anxiety.

I was a veterinary nurse and have dealt with, first hand, traumatised animals that require sedating, or first aid from injuries. The effects of animals can lead to such distress for them. They can be salivating profusely, pacing, shaking and petrified. This can result in the "fight or flight" syndrome. The flight obviously is the worst thing a dog can do as this can then result in injuries of a high magnitude. (running into barbed wire fences or into traffic amongst the most common injuries caused by "flight").

PERSONAL ANXIETY - Heidi

On a personal level, I too suffer from a certain amount of anxiety caused by the fireworks. Mine is not controlled by fear (any animals anxiety from fireworks is the fear of the unknown and unexplained). But my issue with loud noises is more due to my medical condition of fibromyalgia.

Fibromyalgia causes noise sensitivity. Any noise can bring about anxiety, resulting in tension. As I am able to understand what the noise is, the noise does not create fear anxiety. It does however cause periods of stress as I have heightened emotional responses to noise so it can feel like I am being hit about the head repeatedly until the noise settles. I can become quite jumpy, literally jumping out of my skin at sudden noises. This is a problem I have to live with, any noise can create a reaction for me so obviously I cannot spend my life wrapped up in cotton wool or permanently on drugs.

26 Katie

My reasons for signing this firework petition are simple really. I have never really liked fireworks, I was the kid that was screaming and holding my daddy's hand begging him to take me home, as they were too loud. I was the one who dreaded November 5th as I knew it would scare me. When I got to 18 years old I was diagnosed with dyspraxia, one of the odd features that this conditions has is that a lot of sufferers also have Hyper-sensitive hearing. Noise aggravates me. I don't like loud music. I don't like noisy TV's I just don't like noise. My husband always says that I could hear a mouse fart which is probably right. Three years ago we decided to get a dog. We are now the proud owners of a 10 year old Lurcher called Tara. We got her out of rescue and she is a delight to have around. The only problem is that she doesn't have the flight side of a nature. – If she gets nervous she only knows how to fight. She is a reactive dog (When she see's other dogs) she is getting better. Now there is really 3 things that make her bark. They are:-Cats Fireworks Window Cleaners. Obviously cats will always avoid Tara. Window cleaners come round once a month on a Saturday so we are prepared. And then there is fireworks. From when the clocks go back until they go forward again it is potentially the firework season. The dark nights can drag the most sensible people out into their gardens to let fireworks off. This causes massive amounts of stress in this house. I am annoyed because of the noise and then Tara will hear them and start panting, walking around and she is obviously stressed. If you let her in the garden and a firework goes off she runs round and round barking and acting like a loony. The only time she is calm when she comes in the front room and lays on either my husband or me, but, if another firework goes off it all happens again. We never go out at night during the winter months, as we never know when Fireworks will be set off and therefore we never know whether Tara will be upset. It is disappointing when it is my birthday November 14th we used to go out and have a meal and then go for a drink. We managed to get somebody to sit with Tara last year and so we went out for a meal. Then we came straight back so that the dog sitter could go out. I always look forward to spring, the flowers are beautiful and best of all the clocks go forward and the firework season is over. This has to work so that people like me who suffer with fireworks can at least know when they are going to happen and dogs like Tara will not get stressed. We don't have to sit in all winter "just in case" Thank you for reading this.

27. Pete

As a child, I always looked forward to having a few fireworks on firework night, aka bonfire / Guy Fawkes night etc.

Our fireworks didn't impact on any farm animals, in fact, the local farmer used to build us a bonfire from hedge cuttings and allow us to have our fireworks on his land. Back then, bonfire night was on the 5th November, or a day or so either side if the weather was bad on the 5th. At the most, there would be fireworks on 4 or 5 nights of the year.

We had a dog that was scared of gunshots, thunder and fireworks, but she never went into a blind panic for 3 months of the year because of fireworks.

If she heard any, she might hide under the sideboard for 30 minutes shaking, but soon recovered.

Compare those few days of reasonably quiet fireworks with the situation that we've had to endure since the millennium, nowadays, Firework night has become firework season and the use of fireworks to celebrate any number of things, seems to be on the increase, as does the volume of the fireworks themselves.

I heed the advice of the RSPCA and keep my dog indoors when I am expecting fireworks, but it's almost impossible to block the noise of them these days, because they are so loud, maybe they are a maximum of 120 decibels, but a rocket exploding over your house at 120 DB makes a very scary bang for anyone suffering from anxiety disorders and animals are particularly badly affected.

Mine is, and it takes 3 or 4 hours to settle him down.

People these days just don't seem to care about the stress that they cause people and animals, as long as they can have their fireworks at all times of the evening or night and the louder the better it would seem.

Fireworks badly affect my dog and from the first night that he hears them, he is on edge listening every night, if he hears any on following nights, his stress gets worse each time, until, by Christmas, he only has to hear a car go over the traffic bump outside my house and he starts panting and shaking.

This also has an adverse effect on my health, I suffer from several conditions, most of which are made worse by stress, so every autumn, I can look forward to 3 months of feeling worse than I do for the rest of the year. My Crohn's disease usually fares up, as does my Ankylosing Spondylitis. So 20 minutes of enjoyment for each family firework party adds up to 3 months of feeling even worse than I do through the year during my bad periods.

And then we have the anti social fireworks, when I was young, the bad yob kids used to put bangers in people's dustbins or throw one onto their lawn, of course, they weren't very loud and didn't cause much nuisance. However, the fireworks available to the public today can and have, blown up things such as

phone boxes and have destroyed wheelie bins. How long is it going to be before some amateur "terrorist" starts using these big fireworks to try to kill and maim people?

A friend of mine has to have a permit, plus secure locked storage facilities, to buy black powder (gunpowder) for his muzzle loading musket, yet anyone over the age of 18 can buy and possess these dangerous explosives which are supposed to be garden fireworks.

Do I want to see all fireworks banned? No I don't.

Do I want a ban on these massive and loud cat 3 fireworks sold to the public? yes I do, they are anti social and potentially lethal.

I'd like to see organised displays only, they are safer, everyone knows when they are, so can take action to be out of the area during the display.

Failing that, I'd like to see quieter fireworks on sale for a shorter period, with a maximum of ten celebration dates per year.

Fireworks on new years eve hasn't been with us for many years, I believe that it started at the millennium celebrations, since then, the new years eve celebrations have spread to any night between Christmas night and the night before everyone returns to work, this really is unacceptable and ruins many people's Christmas and new years celebrations.

I haven't been out on a new years eve for quite a number of years, purely because I daren't leave my dog home alone for fear of fireworks scaring him.

In fact, I don't go out after dark from the date that fireworks go on sale in October, to after new year, just in case someone decides to have a firework party within a mile of my house, such is the volume of airborne 120 db fireworks.

I sincerely hope that the government listens to the stories of how fireworks affect a significant part of the population. Only a minority actually use fireworks, but the impact on people and animals lives is widespread.

28. Michelle

I'm writing personal statement in regards to how fireworks affect both myself and my dogs.

I suffer with many health conditions one that affects both my breathing and my lungs and also creates severe anxiety attacks, And I find it extremely debilitating that I have to cope with both the noise and the pollution that fireworks cause for weeks and weeks on end, this year alone I found that I had to stay on strong steroid medication and oxygen and nebulisers right through September to the end of January! this is all down to the stress of constant and unexpected fireworks and the pollution in the air.

On a secondary note I have two dogs that are terrified of fireworks and yes as a responsible dog owner I could cope with controlling this issue as best I can on a few of the celebratory dates that you would

expect fireworks to go off ia November 5th Diwali New Year's Eve Chinese New Year's Eve etc. if fireworks were restricted to a few dates in the year I think all of us would be able to compromise, but the truth is fireworks now go off for months on end and can be so Random! I myself have been affected by having my dog run into the road as a firework was let off in a local park at 3pm in broad daylight how is this fair or even legal?

I spend weeks night after night Comforting terrified dogs which triggers my health problems! I cannot go out, I cannot leave them at all, as on the few nights that they may have been left alone when I was not expecting fireworks, they have caused damage to them self in sheer panic!! none of the AIDs on the market help a dog that reaches that anxiety level and it is not responsible fair or right to be expected to sedate an animal for weeks on end.

I know that people that do not understand this problem with firework believe that there is enough help out there with all of the products on the market but until they've had to comfort a terrified dog, a dog that would do anything without thought to its own health and safety to get away from the noise of fireworks,

they will not understand that a lot of these products out there just will not work on an animal that has reached that stage of Fear. But this year at my wits end i tried everything and spent Fortunes! money that I do not have trying to bring some comfort to my animals I tried every product that there is and still spend to many nights with a dog so terrified that she bit threw her own tongue, tried to bury into the bath and wet herself in fear! and yet we are meant to be a nation of animal lovers and still there is no law to restrict the use of fireworks why is this? so many other countries have already done.

This this is not about spoiling people's fun, but about allowing both humans and pet owners, farmers, or people with horses and animals outside, to be able to prepare and keep themselves and their animals safe.

The laws that currently exist for the use of fireworks do not work yes it may be illegal to let them off in public but on many times I have called the police by the time they reach the area where the fireworks went off the culprits have disappeared.

If there were tighter laws as to when they were sold and noise limits being reduced further, people would not be able to get hold of fireworks all year round and therefore we wouldn't have this issue I believe now is the time for change this suffering is real.

29. MR Anon

Point:

- 1) I've never enjoyed fireworks. Mainly because a school friend was blinded by one when we were about five. So tragic and so real it changes your perspective.
- 2) I've never seen a firework display that didn't look better from at least a mile away!
- 3) I was born and raised in the country and have seen so much damage to farm animals by irresponsible, cowardly thugs that think they're big and clever. They are not. They are idiots and

a menace to society.

- 4) I've always had dogs. They've all been terrified of the noise associated with fireworks, despite my spending silly money in CD's to get them used to the noise, DAP diffusers, Rescue remedy drops and at one point, medication from the vet! Never, ever again. The look of sheer terror on her face when she could hear what was going on but was completely unable to physically move almost destroyed us both!
- 5) My dog will walk forever by my side without a lead if I need to walk with my crutches but when a random firework explodes, she's off like a shot, in pure panic. Resulting in husband and daughter riding round for hours at times, trying to find her. So far, we've been able to. I'm aware though that one day ...

When we get her home, she's still so stressed she won't eat or drink and it takes a couple of days for her to settle again and get back to, 'normal', then, we have another, random firework!!! During Guy Fawkes season (anything from Oct-Dec or Nov-Jan) she's constantly prowling. Trying to make a safe bed. She knows before long (night AND day for some even more ridiculous reason?) there'll be another load. She loses weight and each one takes a little bit more of her gentle, loving, friendly personality.
How can this be right?

- 6) I have PTSD. Not for any military reason but because I was in a coma for two months, Sept - Nov. (Yes, during Guy Fawkes season.) I can only try to explain how that has affected my brain. All I can say is, every time a firework went off in that city, over those two months, I thought I was living in a war zone. Bombs were exploding all around me. My family were being killed and buildings were being destroyed before my eyes and I was powerless to prevent it. I was in coma. I was totally unable to move to get myself out of those situations (real or imagined) so, can YOU imagine how that affects me now? Maybe not but I sure wish everyone could be in my head, just long enough for one firework to explode!

Quite simply, It's the noise. I don't want to stop people having fun but they don't have to be so loud! They never were, so why now?

Finally, two further things occur to me.

- A) Only the English could spend hundreds of years celebrating a failure.
And
- B) Mr Fawkes and fellow conspirators, would you care to return and have another go please?

You're country truly needs you!!

30. Helene

Living in the centre of the city we can be subjected to kids throwing fireworks, a few years ago kids were launching rockets down the street. I won't walk my dogs in the night during the season as I'm too scared.

When fireworks are going off I have to build a den for my dogs, have the TV on loud. I don't sleep until they have finished being set off as my dogs are scared. I have to book leave for known events else I arrive for work tired. People have mini displays in the tiny city gardens here, ignorant of the potential risk to houses and cars parks just a metre or so away.

I am an A+E doctor and see first hand the damage they can cause to human life. I don't understand in this day and age of health and safety why they are still sold to the general public.

31. Chris

Our Collie was rescued and is terrified of fireworks. We live very close to where they hold the Nos Galon races on New Years Eve. We also foster and every year we have to take our Collie as far away as we can so he cannot hear the fireworks. Every year I email Rhondda Cynon Taff Council and ask them could they why they cannot use silent fireworks as it is in the centre of a village. I get a standard reply they will speak to the company, but they never do. They come right over house.

It is not just the dogs there is a residential home close by with elderly people. There is also a hospital close by with terminally ill patients. RCT just don't care.

It is not just dogs that suffer but elderly people and small babies. Think of the people who are dying near these fireworks imagine what they are going through. Also the people who are ill.

We have fireworks from the end of October till early January during the evening and the middle of the night. And not just small fireworks more like the commercial ones. Shops should be banned from selling these sort of fireworks. The government should make a law to stop the importing of fireworks unless they are silent. The decibels that are legal are far too high and should be lowered if they cannot do this.

I wish they could see our dog. We have tried everything to calm him down but nothing works. We are so scared as he gets himself into such a state we are worried he might have a heart attack. You have always been able to buy fireworks without bangs and they are just as good.

All this nonsense started with the Millennium. It should now stop or be silent.

I use to love fireworks but now I hate them seeing what they do dogs and people

32. Jayne

So it's Wednesday 16th March. My husband who has just had back surgery and I come away for some rest and recuperation to Whitby. 7pm the fireworks start in some prick's garden. They carry on for about 70 mins before I am compelled to go outside and yell 'have some consideration for people will you !'. I ring the local Police who I know full well will have no powers to do anything about it. And they take a note of where it is happening but have no power until after 11pm. My poor dog is stressed beyond belief and my husband who had just gotten off to get some sleep after 3 weeks of less than 4 hour of sleep is now wide awake. How can this be right???? Quiet now but if it continues I may just end up being

taken away by the Police myself for hitting someone. And the Government believes that the laws around Fireworks are strict enough. Well Government that presumes that people have consideration for others.... And they don't. So pull your finger out and take action NOW

33. Susan

Its fantastic the amount we have reached lets hope we can get to 100,000 mark by the 2nd april.I sent an e-mail to my local MP yesterday stating how much these fireworks affect me,my little dog & my partner who has dementia i also mentioned how the war veterans as well as those who might have lived through a war,must feel when these "bomb" type fireworks go off.This is the only way i can describe them as they are so loud & disturbing (they even make me jump) there ridiculous!!! Anyway ive asked for his help in anyway he can & to click on the link that leads him to this campaign as i mentioned he would be able to read peoples comments about the fireworks & problems people are experiencing.I got an e-mail back saying they are hoping to get back to me in 15 days.Hopefully its sooner!!!! Im glad ive been part of this campaign & i just hope we can get a good result from it all, "FINGERS CROSSED

Firework Statements – Animal

1. BA11 Alexia

I have been asked to message you. One of my dogs, Frank, a rescue bull x lurcher has increasingly been finding fireworks being let off for longer periods of time over the years more difficult.

He already has serious anxiety issues from what we suspect was an abusive past as a working lurcher. This year the firework period went on for a period over two weeks and then still the random odd one. The size of fireworks made the town sound like Beirut and the house shook.

I had an Adaptil Diffuser on for a few weeks in the lead up, he had Skullcap and Valarium tablets - the highest dose, Rescue Remedy, a Thundershirt on, I was using T-Touch methods and he hid on the sofa next to me under one of my jumpers. As the week of bonfire night progressed he reached a point where nothing was working - he is Clicker trained and I have used lots of counter conditioning, operant conditioning and BAT with him but he was way over Threshold so this would have been a pointless exercise. In desperation I rang the vets on the Saturday of the second weekend and asked for help. He was prescribed Diazepam because I was worried he would have a heart attack or his health was seriously at risk. So for two nights he was on a high dose of Diazepam, still with a Thundershirt on and hiding under my jumper next to me.

My major issues are the amount of days the fireworks went on and the size of fireworks that the public now seem to be able to buy. Something needs to change to help dogs like Frank have more chance of coping around fireworks.

2. BS5 Ruby

Dog 1 - ignores fireworks now due to being deaf from old age however when a puppy used to get very distressed weeing and pooing everywhere every time one went off to the point he was contained to one room mum and dad tried Calmex everything so they're great full he's old now

Dog 2 - hearing is still sharp can hear a door knock before me gets extremely distressed over the sound of fireworks has a heart murmur so have to try keep him calm have to put the tele on in room which was hard prior to dad mounting it to wall as he would scratch he threw up all over my floral material sofa this year bless him usually I go to bed at 5 with a loud Disney movie on and him under the covers going shhhh to keep him calm really upsets me as the neighbours who's land is above mine have dogs themselves but still left continuous fireworks off I had to corner them the other day and complain about it because it's not fair the vets have now said he's going to need like relaxing tablets for new year otherwise it's going to cause him more harm than good which is a shame it upsets my two year old as well as she can't be near my dog when fireworks go off as he can become snappy quick which puts her at risk

Dog 3 - this is my aunties dog she doesn't do any social media or I'd have her inbox you herself, this is a little jack Russell who literally destroys everything in sight when fireworks go off the bed can't have anything on so he can hide he cries pees jumps in the bathtub and it's so bad he's on sedatives because of it but it doesn't stop the shaking and paralysis he gets its heart breaking for her as it often means she misses out on events with me and my daughter because of it.

3. BS3 Deb

My 5 year old greyhound Leah has been terrified on and off since mid October due to the fireworks. Tonight when I went out, she weed on the mat, something she hasn't done since she came to us as a traumatised rescue at 1 years old and now she trembles every time we leave the house day or night. Normally a happy confident dog, she was really scared of the bin lorry this morning.

4. BT6 Suzie Alexander

I live in Belfast N.Ireland we would have fireworks displays in October for Halloween which i dread every year. I have a Staffordshire Bull Terrier who is coming up on 10 yrs who is absolutly petrified of fireworks I have tried everything from sprays to the Thundercoat to try and calm him i have even made a den for him under my stairs and have had to sit with him he shakes and pants which couldn't be good for any animal it's about time these fire bombs I call them, are made illegal as they are dangerous and let our pets live in peace, that my dog doesn't eat and would be really sick with nerves thanks

5. CB1 Catherine

I think you are the correct person to write to about our poor dog's firework experiences. I have actually had to move house because of them. I used to live in central Cambridge. We had fireworks going off for 28 / 35 days last year after Divalii.

My dogs coped ok initially but then as the days went by they couldn't cope at all. My setter would spend every evening barking constantly and panting and wanting to get outside to chase them away. This was obviously very stressful for her, me and our neighbours. My lab was the worst though he got to a point that he couldn't eat after dark for months as he associated darkness with scary fireworks. He wouldn't go outside either and so going to the toilet was impossible last thing at night. His toilet training therefore went to pot. It broke my heart to see him deteriorate emotionally and he is no longer the confident and happy dog that he was. He will never totally recover I don't think. His life is still stressful as he is now scared of crow scarers, gunshots thunder and even doors slamming, all of which were never a problem before.

If organised fireworks were only allowed (on specific days) I would be more than happy to make arrangements for my dogs but you can't when you don't know when they are going to go off. They have definitely ruined my labradors life seriously.

6. CH49 Lynda

I have a five year old staffy who is terrified of fireworks. Each year she seems worse than the last. Every night for more than a week she was shaking and panting for many hours each evening. When they eventually stopped she was still anxious, she had started associating the dark with fear and it took a few nights of no fireworks before she was back to normal. Sometimes now if she hears a loud bang she will be anxious and shaking for an hour or so, that actually happened last night about 6pm.

My wish is that it would be organised displays on one night only, none for sale to the public. Some may think that sounds selfish and I don't like to spoil children's fun but these days for many it is a time to dread. We have new years eve very soon but we wouldn't dream of going out and leaving her alone.

7. C07 Marie

Hi...the pony was Fly. He was 11.1 Dartmoor and Raffles 8hh Shetland. They were living at the local Horse rescue when I lost everything in divorce. I still had contact with them. The restaurant opposite the rescue held a large Firework party last year but failed to notify the rescue who normally don't get nearby hoses using fireworks. Fly grew more and more distressed and vet called who administered sedation and nothing worked. Vet said he had twisted a gut to far to operate and was PTS. His elderly mate had also become distressed but once sedation required two days on drip and only just pulled through from the trauma it caused him. He now is on his own and clearly, a year later, misses his lifelong companion. We were heartbroken feeling that we had let them down twice. Giving them up when my ex tried to take the home me leaving me with two kids and horses homeless.then placing them with friends who own and run the rescue to be safe for life. I no way blame the rescue as they fought tooth and nail to keep them safe but fireworks and fun stole their lives.

At the end of every October I begin to fill with dread....Fireworks are one again on the horizon. Now the firework season is so much longer that feeling of stress builds for longer. Birthdays...Christmas...new year..divorce any reason to celebrate now uses fireworks. Once upon a time I could plan for 5th of November and one weekend either side. This planning would include spending the whole evening from

dusk to dawn in the barn with my horses, and dog, the small animals rabbits Guinea pigs would all be in the barn with music playing to deflect the bags..the lights on to diffuse the flashes giving them human company and confidence. Now you never know when they are going off and spend many evenings dashing off to the yard before fear and injury can be inflicted. I do not wish to prevent others having fun but ask that it is done responsibly. Set display dates only Organised displays or designated areas to set them off in.

8. C01 Sue

Been a owner of 2 greyhounds one of them that find the sound of fireworks going off upsetting and although most times that they are going off are when fireworks do go off the loud bangs do not help my greyhound . The 5th November once they started going off I landed sitting in my bathroom with one of my greyhound trying to calm him down which took hours, I ended up sleeping downstairs with him as he had only been with us since May. New year eve I thought was going to be ok until just before midnight when they started once again one very stressed greyhound . I know we won't get them ban from display shows but maybe ban them from home use or low the noise level I know it not just my greyhound that suffers but many more greyhounds, animals as well as some people.

9. C09 Sally

No fireworks now for 2 nights, but my two boys start shaking and panting as soon as it gets dark. Scooter is still having to have his thundershirt on and rescue remedy as he is more affected than Fidget. This should not have to happen in their own house where they should feel safe.

10. CV32 Lyn

I have two dogs; a Jack Russell and a Collie, both working dogs, and both used to guns on the farm. No problem! I also have two house cats, whom are usually outgoing and friendly, and a horse (26yrs).

My sheep dog is 12yrs old in February. From her 1st year "Bonfire night" has become "Bonfire 3 months". She has to be medicated with 10mg diazepam* for many, many nights, because she cannot cope with the "BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG!!!!", sub sonic "BOOM's", and the ultra sonic "SCREEEEEEEM's". As a farmer, this has effect on her character, because she is drugged! She is terrified of working the field, at my busiest time of "Tupping" to lambing! My Jack Russell, whom is a two year old, just goes berserk, bouncing off the walls, and constantly barking! She too will need sedation at some point.

My cats, become skulking "scaredy cats", whom refuse to go out, and have to use a litter tray! For weeks they will not interact with me, or the family, or leave the house!

I cannot hack out on my horse in winter, because he becomes paranoid of anything and everything! He can shy at an apple falling, or a plastic bag in the hedgerow, and it is dangerous for us and other road users, because he becomes so scared and unpredictable he can spin round and gallop home!

I ask that the sale to the public of EXPLOSIVES, should be STOPPED, and public "one night only" displays be encouraged! If we, as animal lovers can be prepared, we can manage the fear!

My postcode is CV32 and fireworks are going off constantly!

I work nights as a nurse and have to "abandon" my terrified animals just when they need me!

11. DA12 Sophie

My past rescued dogs have had issues with firework noise. My remaining dog is my late Mum's rescued Chinese Crested dog - Phoebe. She has a lovely temperament and is a happy little soul once she had settled with us. We are very happy to have been able to give her a home and she is no bother - a lovely little character to have around. Around the middle of October, our lives and Phoebe's life changes dramatically.

She faces - total hysterical fear of fireworks noise and flashes, toileting indoors in fear and refusal to venture into the garden even when the fireworks have stopped. If we pop out, she is left in the utility room with a metal baby gate as a barrier. If fireworks are let off, she has bitten through the utility room wall, down to the metal angle strip on the corner in an attempt to escape and also bitten the metal of the baby gate -- leaving blood from her gums on it. If we leave her free run of the house, she has chewed our oak door leading to the front door, in an attempt to get out. She hyperventilates to the point of collapse at times and fouls whichever area she is in at the time - or everywhere if she has free run. For us - we face total anxiety about her state, destruction of our home, cleaning up all the fouling and as well as feeling totally sorry for her, some frustration when this goes on for months at a time and sometimes multiple times a day. We then both feel very guilty at feeling frustrated!! It causes emotional upset within my family as well as friction when the situation is unrelenting from October to January.

If fireworks were controlled to informed events at appropriate times of the year, we would have an opportunity to medicate her (although that is also a worry) and make sure we were with her during the firework display. All in all, a very fraught time for pet and owners. Please feel free to use this however you see fit. I have already sent pics of my destroyed door. I am looking for pics of the plastered, chewed wall. Another point is that Chinese Crested don't have the same dentition as other dogs, so our other fear is that she will damage her weaker teeth.

12. DA12 Belind

I have lived in Gravesend town centre near the river front, for over twenty years. During this time the amount of firework usage has spiralled with each passing year. My 7yr old dog Flori, had no problems with fireworks, storms etc., when she was a younger dog: we did all the common sense socialization processes with her, and she also attended dog behaviour training classes, which she passed with no problems.

However, after a particularly bad firework season several years ago, Flori began to exhibit increasing distress when fireworks were going off in the area around our home. That year, the fireworks started in October, and increased throughout November without abating, culminating on New Year's Eve. Our

windows shook, and even playing loud music didn't help to distract her or us! In fact, my kitchen window was cracked by a rocket!

Two years ago, a rocket firework became wedged in my guttering down pipe, and caused a backup of rain water, which leaked through into our bedroom (which had recently been replastered and decorated). From this time, each firework season has become noisier, with extremely loud and powerful fireworks being let off within yards of our home. And despite taking veterinary advice, and trying the following

Building a safe den

Playing loud music while fireworks are going off

Not paying attention to our dog while she was agitated

Dap

Zylkene tablets from the vet

Natural calming herbal remedies

Thundershirt

Anti-histamines

Sedating

Diazepam (at maximum safe dose)

Extra exercise

I came back from work at 3:45pm on Wednesday 11th November 2015 to find that my dog had tried to get into the bedrooms, by chewing and scratching the doors and door frames... her blood smeared over the area, I had come home early in order to I

give my dog her dose of diazepam, before dusk as our vet had instructed. However, was told that people had been letting off fireworks throughout the day in my area, and Flori had panicked and tried to flee from the noise!

I have come to absolutely dread the autumn/winter season over the last few years; no longer able to go out in the evenings as we have been unable to leave Flori alone. However, I'm now scared to even go to work during the day, in case someone let's off more fireworks and she hurts herself, and seriously damages the home again!

We, and our vet, are rapidly running out of ideas on how to address this escalating problem... my dog is no longer the dog that we once knew....and our family life is being very adversely affected by the worry of what will happen next!

13. DN15 Melanie

So here we have our horses a 23yr old veteran and 3 yr old youngster safely inside ready for a neighbour at the rear of the stables doing their annual fireworks display. Now I had lights on radio on full and these horses had already had sedative paste prescribed from the vets as the youngest one had only just previously come back from equine hospital after nearly losing her eye. This was still the terrifying distress it caused them.. Now I will add we had 48hrs notice of the event but this was held on the 31st oct.. Something needs to be done about restrictions to dates and distance from animals/stables/farms etc. Video of distressed horses during fireworks

14. DN32 Rachel

Fireworks are a constant annoyance not just around bonfire night when they basically start been let off as darkness falls until the early hours of the morning all over the town. They start at the end of October and and continue until the middle of November, this year there were far more in both noise level and amount heard, and they continued sporadically through Christmas and New year. This year it was like living through the battle of the Somme on a nightly basis, my border collie was extremely distressed even after I had purchased all the recommended calming products available, we had many sleepless night waiting for the next bang to go off. I spoke to many colleagues at work who also suffered a very similar experience

15. E11 Rachel

Apart from the occasional lack of sleep fireworks cause myself and my husband my main issue is the effect they are having on one of my dogs. She has complex behavioural issues causing her to chase and bite her tail and already takes medication for this. Any stressful event will increase the amount she self harms during the actual event and for a period of time after. This year she has gone from mostly tolerating fireworks noise in previous years to being terrified as soon as any bangs start. I am convinced this is because of stress stacking during the period around fireworks night where we had 4 weeks solid of bangs every night. The fact that the noise was so frequent did not give her any chance for her stress levels to drop. In fact she became so stressed by the firework noise that she developed a general fear of the dark and refused to eat after dark until early December when she started to calm down again. She has also developed separation anxiety when left alone if dark and instead of sleeping happily on our bed now hides beneath it and will not eat any food left with her. She already takes Prozac for her compulsive spinning but this alone has not been enough to avoid the stress of fireworks. We have tried thunder shirts, zylkene and adaptil which made no difference so we have had to resort to a visit to the vet and a prescription for xanax. Even with the highest dose of xanax she can have she was still distressed at midnight on New Years Eve although thankfully not as badly as she was on 5th November. Myself and my husband stayed at home rather than go out with friends to care for her – the first fireworks went off at 5pm and the last ones stopped at 1:45am. Although we do have the xanax for her it is a medication of short duration lasting only 3-4 hours so we had to leave her without medication for the early part of the night to make sure she would be covered during the worst of it. Xanax is also physically addictive and is not recommended for long term use so would not be suitable to use every

night between early October and mid February when fireworks might be going off (this is the time period experience tells me we can expect to hear random fireworks going off).

restricted to certain dates of the year and that people in an area where they will be used should have warning. We live in Leytonstone in East London. I understand that I am unfortunate to have a dog that is affected by this issue and I do not expect to live in a world where no one is allowed to use fireworks ever. What I do think is reasonable is that their use is restricted to certain dates of the year and that people in an area where they will be used should have warning.

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16. HP14 Ms HG – Anon

Hi, the fireworks this year have made my dog very nervous, as we walked past a house a week before Guy Fawkes night someone let off a firework my dog was so scared he was dragging us home his claws were worn down it took him at least 2 hours to calm down enough to eat, since then walking past the same house he walks fast starts panting but once away from that house he is fine, but now any loud noise especially gun shots (I live in the country) he is very nervous, I went from having a very calm happy relaxed boy who didn't worry about anything now he is a very nervous dog at night and doesn't want to go for his evening walk. It is horrible seeing him like this, keep up the good work, and Happy Christmas to you. Helen I love fireworks the same as the next person but now I see what it has done to my lovely boy I'm not so keen, I wish it was only allowed for a couple of nights not weeks on end. No I didn't go to the vets we just didn't walk him in the evening for a couple of weeks, but he still isn't keen on his evening walks now, I think it's cause he can't see what's around him, so I am taking him on a longer walk before it gets dark so he can enjoy himself.

17. IG10 Jan

I would just like to say that I hate fireworks on so many levels! I have signed petitions asking to ban them! I have used thundershirts, calm spot on and silent4! Just about keeping a lid on things but it spoils the evening, fireworks in London on tv with no sound, amazing! Fireworks in back garden not so! Not all of my dogs are worried by them, just my Ig's! My pony used to stand and watch them but now is blind, cataracts due to Cushings but the person who owns the field behind his house assures me he is fine!

18. KY15 Hazel

I have 3 border collies, the oldest is 13. She is terrified of fireworks. There is no consoling her. She trembles and shakes for hours after hearing only one firework. Sometimes she is so terrified she can't eat. The biggest problem I find with fireworks is that I can't preempt one going off, so that I could maybe take my dogs elsewhere. Neighbours let fireworks off any evening, any hour around Guy Fawkes and New Year. I have to take my dogs out at some point in the evening, it can be like Russian roulette at times taking the chance to let them out. If the sale and use of fireworks were restricted, at least I could be forewarned and could hopefully take some evasive action. It seems such a shame that any animal should suffer hours of fear for a moments flash and bang in the sky.

19. LA14 Selena and Jennifer

Since the end of October last year(2015) we have had fireworks going off most evenings especially the week before and the week after bonfire night and New Year. We have 3 little Yorkshire Terriers one in particular is really scared and stresses out shaking and panting. Despite our efforts of trying to keep her calm by using calming spot on, tablets, collar and a calming plug in. Now when we go to bed at night she starts to shake and pant as one night when we were going up the bed the loudest rocket went off and scared her now she associates going to bed and banging. We have changed the routine but unfortunately this is not helping. Something needs to be done about the sale of fireworks to the general public and restrictions need to be made. It's not just upsetting animals but also people who are suffering from PTSD and the elderly.

20. LS10 MH – Anon

In my area of Leeds fireworks are heard all year round. Some say it is a signal to say that drugs are available from a particular place. However, between October and January we get loud volleys of fireworks every day and night. These are not just pretty colours in the sky but explosions which make the house shake. Apart from being a nuisance to people trying to sleep it is quite frightening to all especially children and animals. I have a Yorkshire terrier called Ollie who hides whenever he hears fireworks. He shakes to an extent that I can hear his teeth chattering. He will not eat, drink or respond to anything for several hours. He spends his evenings looking up through the skylights looking for fireworks. He will no longer go out in the dark. I cannot let him off the leash in case there is a bang in which case I would have no control of him. On two occasions he set off for home, crossing roads with no regard to me or traffic on the road. He was only a puppy then. I need to ensure I am home to feed and walk Ollie during the day so I can walk him in daylight hours. I am also disturbed during the night when he needs to go out as a result of him not walking at night. Ollie spends his nights under the bed now and often his evenings under the printer or coffee table where he feels safe. This behaviour only started after he experienced fireworks. I have tried everything on the market to help including pheromone plug ins and collars. CDs of fireworks and noises, sedatives from vets, even taken him to herbalist which has all proved to be very expensive and a waste of money. I am left apprehensive of the next firework and frustrated that I cannot help my pet in any way.

21. LU2 SA –Anon

Though it's not too bad round our way from mid October to end of November fireworks do go off in the area and do disturb our peace, we are a small village and I have two horses kept at home, they live out 24/7 with no stabling, so can't shut them in to keep safe. last year at 2am someone set off fireworks in the middle of the road right beside my horses field shelter, she was on her own at that point after loosing my other horse to colic earlier in the year. turns out it coincided with people getting their exam results.. Given her calm nature luckily she was ok when we went out to check on her. In previous years, it has really affected my first horse who used to be very worried for nights on end and regularly would be sweaty in the mornings.

The two mares I have now still get upset by them and as the newest neighbour to our village often holds me to ransom by saying if I don't let him have access through our field to his garden then he'll start having them.

Basically we can't make plans to go out from mid to end of October to mid November as we have to be on call and ready to go out to the horses. It's exhausting being on 'standby' especially until gone 11pm each night for around a good 10 days.

I know not nearly as bad as some people have it, and I'm just thankful we have generally good neighbours and that I don't live in a town.

My dear cousin in Herefordshire, his partner has one horse kept at home on its own and while only in a tiny hamlet, their neighbour sets off fireworks on purpose to upset their many cats, dogs, chickens and said horse.. if I can get him to write up a statement I will but I think its unlikely, though I'm sure he wouldn't mind us using this if it is of help? his postcode is SY7

I also have a friend at work who's collie has to be on medication for about a month either side of it, and won't go on walks anymore, scared of gunshots and any loud noises now.

22. NG33 Jo

I had just got home from the vets with a young cat who had had major surgery to both hips;

"We are home. I had just got Ginger comfortable and off to sleep when some absolute ***** started setting off fireworks grumpy emoticon . He was absolutely terrified and tried to escape. I now have a vulnerable spaced out cat and a traumatised

23. NN5 LF – Anon

Although firework night was originally November 5th or a couple of nights either side, unfortunately, for many years now, firework use has spread not only to three months or more of intense bombardment but also throughout the year for peoples Birthdays, weddings or just because they can and it's about time this was curbed.

For those of us who have pets it is an extremely stressful (and upsetting) time and I am one of the thousands of dog owners who are affected every single time fireworks are let off and have to try and calm my barking, stressed, salivating/drooling dog who is not able to settle and paces backwards and forwards constantly. I have tried numerous treatments including medication from the vets to try to keep him calm, but so far nothing has worked and in any case, why should I have to spend my money trying to sort out a problem that is caused by other selfish individuals who clearly have no thought for anyone, or anything, but themselves?! It's bad enough when you know when fireworks are going to be let off (Nov. 5th) and at least you can TRY and prepare both yourself and your home environment, dog etc. for the barrage, but when they are let off totally at random at all times throughout the year, how can pet owners possibly be expected to prepare for such things? It's anti-social and causes a nuisance end of."

24. OX11 Janice

Our dog, Saffy is a 3 year old Golden Retriever, every time there are fireworks she is absolutely petrified, she trembles, her whole body shakes she pants uncontrollably and nothing we do for her will calm her down because of the loud unnecessary bangs, from fireworks. There needs to be some control regarding the sale of fireworks and times they should be allowed to be used, it's simply irresponsible to any animals/pets or otherwise to be subjected to this torture. We find it very upsetting, not being able to keep Saffy away from these distressing times. We have in the past bought calming treatments from the vets at a cost of £25 a time, this is an unjust cost to ourselves which we cannot afford to keep buying!.... and to be fair why should we have to!. I personally would like controlled events on certain dates ie November 5th!!! And not to be sold to Joe Bloggs to let off in his back garden when he's most likely drunk and in charge of such dangerous weapons. Would also like to add, Saffy squeezes into the tiniest places behind the settee and wall, trying to get some comfort away from Fireworks, she will not come out of this space until the bangs stop, and all the while, she is shaking uncontrollably.

25. OX16 Olivia

My dog has always been scared of fireworks, we once took her for a walk and a young lad of about 15/16 yrs old let off a firework behind us. Obviously that scared my dog, thankfully we had her on a lead but normally we don't have on a lead (she's a border collie so sticks with us and better off the lead) but before she has run off scared. It cost us a lot for calming tablets and sedative from vets for 5th Nov and nye but we know they are going to go off so we can prepare. It's the random firework parties etc that we can't get away from. X Obviously it's distressing for myself and my mum to watch how scared she is. Animals don't understand, we have tried all we can to help her but unfortunately all we can do is turn radios on loud and close the curtains. It's not just dogs who get affected. I never know what is best to do with my horse. Do I leave him out in the field and risk him running around and hurting himself, or a firework landing in his field. Or do I bring him into his stable and risk him getting upset and at worst possibly colicing!

26. OX26 Andrea

My 4 ponies were terrorised last Friday night. My paddock is in the heart of a small village where everyone more or less knows each other. I am usually with my ponies on firework night before and after

the 5/11 but I had something with my daughter that took priority and had assumed all would be quiet as neighbours to my paddock usually give me the heads up. The nursing home that is adjacent to my paddock had a massive firework display, they didn't mention to any of their neighbours that they were planning to do this. My parents luckily live in the village and my father looks after my ponies whenever I'm away, he rushed round to try and calm them down and I got there about half hour after it had finished and it took me more than an hour to calm them all down. Luckily none of them were injured. My mother rang me when my father rush out after hearing the first bang, with that I called the nursing home and told them to stop, the manager and owner didn't want to talk to me so I wrote a review on their FB page and their reply to it was extremely uncaring, not a single apologies or even asked if my animals were ok. Everyone in the village that have animals all said the same thing, that their animal were terrified and no notice given. All they had to do was let people in the village know what they were planning, so that we can keep our animals safe. In the 25 or so years my horses have been there not once has there been a display like that. Truly selfish and heartless, I hope they treat their residents better than the local community.

27. PO38 Sara

My retired racing Greyhound becomes a quivering wreck when fireworks start going off. It's not just the big bangs either, its the whistles and fizzes that precede the bang. He will start by being ultra alert to sounds around him and staring with eyes like terrified saucers at the windows. Then the pacing starts with his tail tucked so far underneath him it's like he doesn't have a tail at all. All the while he's pacing he's trembling like a leaf so badly you can literally hear and feel the vibration of it through the floor. He will try to find a "safe place" to hide and curl up in a ball to make himself as small as possible. Once he's chosen his "safe place" he will stay there, panting, hyperventilating, trembling, with a thumping heart you can see through his fur and wide terrified eyes. He won't eat. He won't drink. This can last for hours after the fireworks have stopped. One year he was so bad I had to carry him bodily out into the garden the next morning to go to the loo because he'd been holding on for a good 8hrs or more because he was too frightened to move from his safe place he'd chosen. Poor dog was desperate for the loo, hungry from refusing his dinner the night before and desperately thirsty from all the panting. I've tried Adaptil collars, sprays, room diffusers, Rescue Remedy and Kalms Night along with the "ignore them" dog behaviourist theory and I've also tried having the TV on louder than normal, I've tried reading to him in his safe space, stroking him and I've even slept on the floor next to him so he didn't feel alone with his terror. Nothing has worked. If there are fireworks I go through this process. It's heartbreaking. You wouldn't put a human child through this terror they don't understand, so why should animals be expected to cope? Unfortunately the chap who lives just across the road from my cul de sac does the pyrotechnics for the big IOW Festivals. This means he can obtain professional display grade fireworks. Our walls and windows shake thanks to him. It's like a war zone when this guy gets going. I normally have to take Arik to my Mums house in the next village 6 miles away where it's quieter. I'm terrified Arik will have a heart attack one day.

28. P12 Elle

I feel strongly that fireworks must have a limit it is fun in all but sometimes its too ridiculous the noise troubles people and pets, people with young children or adults. I have had one horrible experience with a firework I was at my field when a firework was thrown at my horse and her herd.

29. PR8 Vera

My 4 year old Cairn, Molly, hardly registered fireworks in her first year but as she has grown up a continual barking to the extent that nobody in the house can do anything has developed from an alert bark ago to an angry bark and this last year a frightened barking. She a real toughy about things in general, isn't bothered by thunder just fireworks. I put her in a 'thunder jacket' last Nov 5th and it definitely calmed her so I'm just hoping it continues to help. We have never reacted to her at all when she barks at fireworks believing this is best but still anxiety is growing. I feel really angry for all those pets that suffer more than Molly and believe strongly that fireworks should be banned in domestic situations-they are much noisier and more intrusive than they used to be

30. RH2 Brenda

My dog, Poppy has been seeing a behaviorist as she has developed a phobia about anything that sounds remotely like a bang! Whilst she has always been scared of fur works, thunder etc. Over the last 2 years, especially at firework time this has got worse. There have been fireworks being let off during the day time as well as after dark. The season starts in October and goes on until January. Not to mention all the ones in between, parties etc. She is on medication and I have to do exercises with her to go with these, do far not at of success sadly, but the vet and the behaviorist tell me it takes a while for the medication to kick in so keeping my fingers crossed . I can't let her off the lead ad if she hears anything, could be a car back firing, someone banging in a fence post etc. She goes into a blind panic and runs for her life.

31. RH17 Trevor

My dog, a 10 year old retired ex racing Greyhound suffers severe anxiety and panic attacks during fireworks and months of psychological turmoil afterwards. She won't go out after dark and often messes in the house, she shakes uncontrollably and cowers in the corner salivating when I get the leads out for several months following even just one stray firework (which was most likely sold illegally to an underage minor.). Sadly, living in the countryside as we do, we are also exposed to seemingly relentless gunshot from people who consider that hunting and killing animals for "sport" is not barbaric insanity (I digress but this is also a major issue for my dog). 'Maggie',who is the most gentle and loving dog imaginable and who attracts so much fuss and attention from local children on her walks is put through weeks and months of psychological torture at the hands of people indiscriminately setting of fireworks at all times of day and night all year round. My partner and I have to try to arrange our holidays from work to be with the dog during the worst times. This is not easy to manage as you just never know when the fireworks will be set off and has caused my partner stress and migraine many times. This isn't just a case of taking holidays either. I am self employed and have to suffer severe loss of income because of this situation. But I will not abandon my dog!! This year, for firework night, or should I say firework

fortnight, I decided the best course of action would be to take Maggie somewhere where I know there won't be any bangs in an effort to reduce her stress and the possibility of suffering heart attack. Not ideal as these dogs are not happy out of their familiar surroundings but a preferred option over dealing with the insanity of fireworks. With the cost of a holiday let some 250 miles away from where we live, fuel, food and loss of earnings, those 4 days away cost me in excess of £700. Add to this £100's I've already spent on remedies, thunder jackets, vet consultations and prescriptions as well as the many many sleepless nights I have trying to comfort my dog, I think it's fair to say that fireworks make my life and that of my partner a complete misery. They are effecting our life and our health. I am not anti-fireworks, but I firmly believe restrictions on their use and on their decibel levels need to be put in place as soon as possible.

32. SL2 AMcM – Anon

I have 6 rescue cats, some are feral and cannot live indoors. They are all absolutely terrified by fireworks and if they are outside when they hear a bang, they bolt for it and don't come back. Therefore I try to get them in every day at 3.30pm before it goes dark, which is incredibly difficult especially with the feral cats. Even once inside the house (as per government recommendation), they are still terrified of the noise and go into hiding, whether it's behind the sofa, or in a corner in the bedroom, or press themselves flat to the stairs. They don't come out to eat, drink or use the toilet. When they do move about, they are very very nervous and slink with their bodies close to the ground as they would near a predator. All this also has a big impact on my life as it means I can't go out and leave them. Every night I keep thinking "surely there can't be any more fireworks" and then without fail there are more every night and for a few nights unfortunately I wasn't quick enough to get my cats in. There have been fireworks every single night since 31 Oct, starting as early as 4.30pm and ending as late as 1am. Every year in the past I have had to collect a lot of firework shells which have landed in my garden.

33. SS12 Dave

In my case the affect of fireworks being let off at random times of the day and year is around the stress and serious outcome to dogs in general. Although my experience is based mainly on the issues around greyhounds as I own two and work closely with greyhound groups. We have had many situations whereby our dogs have been so stressed that they have required urgent medical attention. An extreme case last year resulted in a young healthy greyhound suffering a heart attack as a result of the continuous noise and sadly passed away. There are certain measures we can take with our dogs but they need prior preparation. Having a restriction on the times that fireworks can be let off would help plan these measures rather than not know when the dogs are likely to get stressed as a result of random noise.

34. S65 Emma

I have a dog who is petrified by the noise of fireworks . He won't go outside to toilet after dark for fear of fireworks going off. This started mid September for us and is still going on. If past experience is anything to go by it wont stop till end of Jan.

I take all the advice from experts. I have the TV on loud, draw the curtains, make him small dens to hide in, give him tablets to calm him down, have plug ins with herbs and pheromones and a tight fitting jacket. But the slightest hint and he's stressed, panting, shaking and whining with fear. He is so stressed by them he frequently throws up from all the shaking. It is heartbreaking to watch. I have worked so hard to prove to him it is safe. This year he's managed to cope with the quieter ones but the loud bomb-like ones terrify him and once he has heard those he thinks the quiet ones will mean the loud ones are coming. It takes him weeks to settle down and only takes one firework to set him off again.

35. TW10 Jacki

since late October there have been fireworks virtually every night ranging from the odd few to full blown displays. There can be several lots in one night. I have 2 dogs - a retired greyhound and a rescue lurcher. Both are terrified and are so sensitised now it only needs one bang to terrify them. In November. The greyhound developed severe gastroenteritis. And was an inpatient at the vets for five days on a drip. Nothing was cultured to indicate an infection and I am sure it was due to stress. The lurcher is terrified to go out in the evening even into the garden and has wee'd in the house on several occasions which he would never normally do. Years ago we were able to sedate our dogs on November 5th and New years eve but this is clearly not possible when they go on for so long and we have had very little success with using herbal type treatments. I understand a total ban is not going to happen but a restriction to organised events on specific occasions would be an enormous step in the right direction and help to relieve so much animal suffering.

36. TN27 Jan

Since the 31st October, most evenings in my sleepy village we have had hours of random fireworks. My dog is a nervous wreck. I have tried every product on the market. The only thing that helps slightly is diazepam prescribe by the vet. My dog trembles, his heart races, he paces, he drools & is inconsolable! He also has seizures brought on by stress! I worry that one day like many other terrified dogs his heart will pack up! It is not fair that he has to endure this every year!! I have of course signed the petition & emailed my MP... please keep this campaign up

37. TQ12 DG –Anon

In November we had fireworks going off in our estate 8 days in a row, at all times of the day. We have 2 rescue dogs and I am working from home as a translator. I work for British and American fashion clients and have to update their daily new products as soon as they come in (between 15:00 and 22:00 each day). This is a well paid full-time job that pays our mortgage. Because of the fireworks our dogs were terribly distressed. One sat in the corner shaking, the other was howling and constantly tried to jump up on my lap. Obviously, I couldn't concentrate nor work. For 8 days my husband locked himself into our bedroom with the barking dog as soon as he came back from work (at 17:10), so that I could do my daily work. If I don't deliver my jobs on time, I would lose the client and we would lose the house. 8 days we all had to suffer, the dogs, my husband (how had to spend his evenings locked into a tiny room with a distressed dog) and myself .. just because some idiots in our estate let fireworks off whenever they

wanted. Thanks God, I managed to deliver my work on time this time - but it is very hard to translate 4000 words in only 5 hours instead of 7.

38. WA7 Kay

The ultimate impact that random fireworks has had on our dog Smithy – in the WA7 6 area – is that he fitted due to the stress they cause him. It was horrific to see; he was admitted as an emergency at our local vets at 7.30pm Friday 11th December – with the on call vet leaving the staff Christmas Party to attend to Smithy. He was put on emergence medication, tests were started straight away and he was closely observed overnight. He was distraught at us having to leave him there and for my husband and myself the grief of leaving him – not knowing what was going to happen – was very raw and all consuming.

Obviously this also has cost us a lot of money – another impact.

Other ways that are not insignificant about the impact of random fireworks:- · They happen during daylight! When that happens – or during the late afternoon – the stress that they cause Smithy (who barks, runs round, has bumped into things because he is so stressed up etc) means we have to leave our work to tend to and comfort him. We run our own business from home so the time we must give to Smithy means we don't get certain work done – this gets pushed into the weekends when we then have less time to spend with him – so it impacts our everyday lives and our family life together · When the fireworks go off during the evening it means Smithy doesn't do his pre-bed weewee. This means we wakes in the night and obviously we wake too, to let him out. This disrupts our sleep which impacts our day. When the fireworks go off late at night, we comfort Smithy and ultimately he then comes onto our bed – again sleep is disrupted for all and this impacts the next day, which is often a working day – ultimately again this will impact time that is supposed to be family time because we are always trying to catch up with work.

Seeing the stress and seeing that horrific fit has meant we will be cancelling a holiday we booked for a very special birthday next year. We hadn't had a holiday since 2007 and this one – in April – was designed for my special birthday and for my husband who has severe mobility issues. However we cannot bear the thought of leaving Smithy – even with people who love him – when he may become stressed and fit again. So we won't have a special holiday – or any holiday – without him.

Finally, as responsible dog owners we have done all we can to try to prepare for fireworks; Smithy has a thunder-jacket, we have used Adaptil in all its various forms. We have very good friends who are renowned dog trainers n Cheshire and since January 2015 we have taken their advice in training Smithy to deal with fireworks and thunder. He does very well – until the actual REAL fireworks or thunder – and then it's as if there had been no training. We have had to resort to Xanax but that had no effect in November – the vet who dealt with Smithy's fitting has recommended we up the dose – we have to tranquillize our beloved pet! But how do you do that in advance of random fireworks?? Tranquillize him every day? WHY should we have to do that?

39. WD25 Jodie

As well as affecting my dog, she races around the house barking and panting and extremely distressed, they also affect my nerves as I'm having to try and calm down my dog and I'm on edge waiting for the next one to go off. I dare not leave her on her own.

40. WF11 Elaine

We moved here to Byram from Pontefract as it is a semi rural area hoping that fireworks would be less of a problem. It is certainly not as bad but still causes great distress to my springer spaniel. She pants excessively, tries to climb all over me, salivates profusely and is generally a nervous wreck! She usually hides inside the cupboard under our bed and has to be given Valium prescribed by my vet. I also use a DAP plug in and DAP spray in the area she hides. The Valium eases her anxiety eventually but makes her drowsy and I don't really like putting drugs into her because of other people's inconsideration towards pets. I wouldn't mind if they were the colourful sparkly ones but they are getting louder and louder and literally make my bungalow shudder. On the run up to Nov 5th we had them nearly every night and also for several nights after Nov 5. I think organised firework displays should be the way forward and just on Nov 5 th, and New Years Eve and restricted between certain times so that pet owners know exactly when to expect them. On New Years Eve they started letting tomorrow off just after tea (6.10) and continued intermittently till well after midnight, a full 6 hours of hell for my dog. It breaks my heart to see her so distressed and would appreciate more consideration towards not only family pets but children, the elderly and people suffering from PTSD

42. WV8 Andy and Justine

Each year without fail, from early October (this year actually around 20th September) until late November (or even early December), we have to endure fireworks being let off near to where we live. And after a week or two respite, through the Christmas and New Year period.

The noise of the rockets and bangers in particular terrifies our three greyhounds. It seems to affect them more as they age (our eldest is 10 and a half). We really worry that the stress the fireworks places on them is having a detrimental effect on their health and well being. It's awful watching them panting excessively for hours, shaking from nose to tail and not being able to do anything to help the situation.

From our point of view, the 'fireworks season' really disrupts our lives and our dogs lives. They don't get their normal quality walking time during November evenings in particular because without fail a firework will go off, and once that happens, they all stand on the spot quivering and refusing to go any further. Wherever possible, we get up earlier on weekday mornings to try to give them a better walk before work, but even this can be difficult with the mornings being dark and the dogs associating dark with bangs. We have to change our shopping arrangements so that we don't leave the dogs for too long as they are more prone to having 'accidents' during this time of year, and it's never nice having to mop urine up in the hallway or lounge. We weren't able to go out to socialise during November after dark because we were afraid of leaving them as we knew they'd be even more afraid if we weren't there. Both myself and my wife have slept downstairs with the dogs at night during this time, because even

though the law states fireworks shouldn't be let off after 11pm other than on certain days of the year, it's not uncommon for them to be going off well past midnight in October, and in some cases, not even really going off until after 11pm.

We also have to put a particularly, noisy television series on during November as it's the only thing that, to an extent, distracts them from the noise outside. While we're big fans of the programme, "24", it doesn't mean we want to watch it every night during November! The most annoying thing for us is the length of time this nuisance occurs each year. We're not killjoys and don't have a problem with fireworks being let off on or around 5th November or whenever Diwali falls, but for them to be going off for two whole months is ridiculous and unacceptable.

We also saw a warning from a greyhound friend that teenagers had deliberately thrown fireworks in the path of her and her dogs when they were out for a walk in the early evening but after dark.

Either people need to be more responsible, or fireworks should be banned from public sale altogether. We definitely need a change in the law.

43. MW – Anon

my cat I named Dexter,he was homeless and teenagers tied a firework to his leg and it went off,a rescue woman took him in and put him on facebook and I offered him a home,he has been with us a month now and doing well.Luckily he was not injured to much,Just mentally stressed but he has come a long way and is happy

44. HH –Anon

My in-laws dog broke free from his lead on the Saturday after Guy Fawkes, (I can get the exact date if needed) Around 10ish in the evening when my elderly father in law took him for a quick walk to do a wee. A firework went off directly overhead. They live a field away from the M11. We got called and my husband went over to theirs to hunt for him at about 11pm. He came home around 12am with no sign of him. At around 2.15am my mother in law called to say Archie had been found, on the opposite side of the motorway about 8 miles away from where they live, alive! A very kind young couple bought him home. The next day he was limping badly, the Sunday, Monday he was taken to the vets and had to have a back claw removed. Not sure of the cost of that but obviously distressing all round. I've just learnt this evening he's also torn a ligament in his back leg and will need another operation on Tuesday, cost around £3000 and obviously lots of stress again for my poor elderly in laws. I can give exact dates and times if need be, all on my FB page. Also it was logged with our local police and patrol cars were looking out for him on the M11.

45. ED –Anon

My partner Terry and I have 12 greyhounds kenneled, only 4 race the rest are retired, last year 2 weeks after bonfire night we went down to our kennels and found one of the retired greyhounds covered in blood down one side, we found he had tried to get out of his run and put a hole in his side, got him straight to the vets where they cleaned and stitched it and put a drain in, we collected him that evening

we were told if the drain leaks slight pink blood not to worry as that is its job, we got him home within 5 minutes he started to heammorage (don't think that is spelt right), we called the vets and was told to rush him back, he stayed over night and we collected him the next day, he was never the same dog but was coping back at the kennels, we found out later people were letting the fireworks off at the allotments where we have our kennels. Since the start of November we havnt been able to race our dogs as all of them now are scared of the fireworks, as soon as the sun goes down Ellie one of our racers starts panting and shaking, Bambam (the one ive been talking about) he was a nervous wreck, we give the dogs Calmex but cant keep them drugged 24/7. Last week Bambam wasn't eating and was just lying about, we put it down to the bad winds (some are so nervous now), on Saturday Bambam was so off colour we called the emergency vet, got him there in the afternoon, they said he had a heart arrhythmia and booked him in for an ECG and heart scan for today. The vet rang this evening and said his heart wasn't very good, we told her about the fireworks she said last years wouldn't have made any difference to him but this years could have contributed to this, they have kept him in tonight and he is stable, if he does pull through he will be on medication for the rest of his life which they estimate 1 to 2 years (he was 9 in September), but he also could take a heart attack at anytime. So sorry its so blooming long xxxx
Thank you in advance for reading

46. Sharon

The fireworks started middle of October and still being let of, now December. My dogs are petrified of them they shake try to hide pant really bad my 11 year old I'm so frightened he will have a heart attack I've done everything, possibly to help them nothing's works can't sedate them every day, Millie still will not go out after dark as every time she goes out someone lets them off I've even tried putting the lead on but it makes her worse. Someone must still be selling them after bonfire night for them to be able to set them off. We ad some one decided to set them of on the street there is quite a few oap bungalow where they were doing it say something and they would put one through the letter box

47. Stef

Sent 15 November to our MP Mark Menzies, as yet again our dogs were shaking as loud fireworks are set off on the street - 9 DAYS AFTER 5 NOVEMBER. One of our dogs has Cushings Disease, which causes her to have life changing symptoms of a negative nature. The disease is caused by the production of too much Cortisol. Anxiety and stress caused by idiots throwing fireworks on our Close, actually INCREASES the production of Cortisol in her frail little body, making her condition even worse frown emoticon

'It is with regret that my contact with you regarding fireworks and the noise pollution and nuisance to pets led, to your usual dismissal, after all you are our voice (sic) in the House. It is now the 14 November, and yet again, night after night cretins are setting off loud fireworks in the community. Could you really give a damn, or have you and your family got links in the firework industry, after all you are a Tory and that seems to be a common theme, association with monetary income. In all my previous contacts, usually about the treatment of animals, your reply has been as useful as testicles on the pope, and since you are (not by my choice I have to say) my 'rep' , I expect better. So we shall share this one on social media. It probably won't make a difference, as people so much respect your party (LOL)'.

48. Pat

From Chelmsford, serious impact to my life financially and illness wise:

Because of fireworks I had to put my parrots inside my home, they were in an outside aviary, I had to purchase 6 large cages made to my specifications, had to catch my birds most of them have been there for 16 years, it is very squeezed inside my home and I must not make any noise between 8pm and 6am so they have a decent sleep, 3 of them died the stress probably. I still have 2 african greys still in the outside aviary, and this will be very difficult in bringing in in terms of space available. My stress is so high I now suffer from severe psoriasis, but yet again none of the politician want to debate them. Why won't they debate this, question of money, there are now lots of factories in the UK that make fireworks, one of them even exploded last year, well any way, with hope, soon I will be able to move to somewhere else out of the aggressivity of 'fireworks' people.... I live in hope.....

49. Sarah

Seren is a 4 year old GSD, fireworks are the worst thing ever for her, me and my family and my neighbours. We have tried everything, desensitizing cds, homeopathic tablets, diffusers and calming cds I have spoken to her vet but they are reluctant to give me any thing for her The weekend before, the week of and the weekend of bonfire night I have no other option but to put seren in kennels, it's out in the middle of nowhere and she loves it there and always has a great time but it breaks my heart, I have a thunder shirt for seren too I know its the other side effects too, the financial costs of buying these extra things that in all honesty don't work.

50. Gemma

Just wanted to send you my statement about how fireworks have affected me. I have a three year old German Wirehaired Pointer, that whilst mainly being a pet, I hoped to work as a gundog. From a couple of months old he has been exposed to guns during his training, and was happy with fireworks. This was until bonfire night 2014 when some of the bangs were so loud that they scared him, causing him to try and hide. Despite my efforts to desensitize him, he now has to be given anti-anxiety drugs whenever I expect there to be fireworks. This has also lead him to become scared of the sound of guns, meaning that I am no longer able to continue his training, and will not be able to fulfill my wish of working him, which is such a shame as he enjoyed working and would have made a good gundog. I am a veterinary nurse with over 13 years experience in practice. In my experience people are becoming increasingly concerned about the distress that fireworks are causing their pets as they become louder and more frequent. We have a huge number of patients that need to be given drugs to help them through fireworks night and new year, but there are animals that due to their species we are less able to help. I have heard of a number people who have had small pets such as rabbits die through fright caused by fireworks, and have personal experience of trying to help my own rabbits and guinea pigs. I enjoy watching fireworks, but more needs to be done to limit when and who can use them. Too many people do not follow the directions on where they can be used, setting them off in areas of dense housing, and I have personally witnessed rockets going down the road a few feet off of the ground as they have been let of in windy conditions.

51. Alexis

I live in the countryside because I had 4 dogs and love nature. Last year my baby shitzu ran for her life and was run over (u know this story) one of my other dogs quakes with fear, my neighbour has 2 ponies in the field behind me that gallop up and down scared , my partner is an ex serviceman with ptsd and fireworks can send him into an anxiety panic.....a reminder of when his friends died at war. Organised displays advertised and away from livestock and homes is one thing, neighbours letting off explosives is another

52. Catherine

would like to say how fireworks killed my 3 year old bullmastiff.

When Harvey was 2 years old he was playing in & out our garden, he ran out the back door as some teenagers threw a firework over our 6ft garden fence, it exploded right infront of his face, he immediately took a seizure/epileptic fit, he had been perfectly healthy up until then & we showed him nearly every week & was Cruft's qualified. When he came out of the fit he was terrified from any kind of noise, even dropping a spoon in the sink sent him cowering into a corner. We took him to a consultant vet & she put him onto Amytriptilyn starting on a low dose, he continued taking epileptic fits but was learning to cope better with noises, gradually the vet decreased his medication as he was doing well. In January the following year he was lying sleeping in our kitchen, our next door neighbour had a party & as the guests left they let off fire works, Harvey took a massive fit during which he stopped breathing, we rushed him to an emergency vet who revived him but he never fully came out the fit only his heart was started, the vet told us it would be better to let him be put to sleep as he was brain dead due to lack of oxygen, he was 3 years old. A beautiful family dog taken due to senseless teenagers with fireworks.

I implore MP's to fight for the ban of these horrendous useless things, what purpose do they serve the community as a whole....NON, people all over, old, young & animals are terrified by them, do the right thing BAN them NOW.

53. Denise

Just like to bring to your attention to the problem we have with our animals with fireworks. It's heartbreaking to see them quivering with fear for just fireworks night but also the weeks prior to and post fireworks night. I'm hoping that eventually they are only allowed to be sold and used on the day to save our pets from the torture they go through year in year out. Thank you so much for hopefully taking time to read this.

54. MR Anon

I was in the park one evening at the end of October just before dusk. Fireworks went off, they were completely unexpected and my two cairn terriers bolted. I suffer with back and hip problems and was unable to run after them. I became very distressed and frightened. Luckily, I did find them but had a really difficult time trying to get them to come back to me. Then came Halloween, November 5th and many more nights of fireworks, it was endless. My dogs were very fearful and would be reluctant to go

out for a walk. I was also reluctant to leave them off their leads and they are unable to have their regular run and exercise.

I also had problems at home with my dogs due to the excessive use of fireworks. I tranquilised tem on November 5th but was not prepared for all the additional nights fireworks went off. The dogs continually barked, were very stressed and kept running around and trying to hid, which made life very difficult for me as I am not very mobile due to health problems. A friend sent me a link to a petition and the FAB Campaign Group.

I joined the campaign and it has been a learning curve for me, I never realised how many people are affected by fireworks – PTSD sufferers, war veterans, autism etc. I was horrified to read the terrible stories of the anti-social misuse of fireworks and how animals have been stressed, injured and even killed.

55. Mary

Hi please can you consider limiting the use of fireworks to a day limit I have a 15 year old dog and they stress her that much she wee's herself and winds herself up, this is hard for my disabled son to understand, so then he gets stressed thank you.

56. Liz

I do not dislike fireworks I just hate the effect they on one of my dogs – he has ended up in the tumble drier as he was so distressed and regularly ends up in the bath because of them – I ended up having to go to the vets to get diazepam for him as he was so distressed – I can just about handle fireworks for a couple of days around 5 Nov but it starts mid Oct and goes on till mid Nov – totally unacceptable! At Chines New Year and Dwhali it is only for a day or two

57. Lydia

This is Tally one of my 2 rescue Staffys. She is 8. Here she is during one of the many occasions throughout the year when fireworks go off in our neighbourhood. She is sedated from prescription drugs, has a thunder shirt on, is sat with music on as loud as possible and me at her feet. If I try and move she will cry and follow me around. She will poo and wee in the house, shake with fear and pant. She Will look at me with her frightened eyes and ask me to take the noises away. She tries to climb out of windows and jumps in the bath. We are near the centre of Bristol and at least once a week fireworks will go off. I love my dog and it breaks my heart to see her so scared. I have considered moving but the availability of fireworks in Bristol and the surrounding areas makes it a possibility that wherever we go so will the bangs and noises. We drive out of the city bonfire night and the nights after and sit in the car till it rains or it gets too late. This November the 5th the last bang was at 3.15 am. I am fortunate to have my dog with me so I can help her. She can sit in my arms and I can try and soothe her. My heart goes out to owners of horses and cattle who don't have this option. If my dog looked at you the way she looks at me it too would make you think about the effect and abuse that animals suffer due to fireworks. I want to help my tally x

58. Joanne

Statement on how firework noise affects our rescue greyhounds.

In our area of Canford Heath, Poole, Dorset, firework noise begins to be heard from a few days before Halloween and continues for about seven to ten days after 5th November. Last year firework noise was heard on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, a few evenings in late December and one New Years Eve and for a few days in January. Firework noise is also heard every Friday night in late July and throughout August with a display on Poole Quay which is about 4 miles away.

We have two rescue greyhounds and both dogs have learned to tolerate the firework noise from 4 miles away during the summer. However, the noise of fireworks being released close to our home and garden has a very detrimental effect on them. Around Halloween, loud booms can be heard at any time from about 3.30pm until around 2am. A number of the noises are reminiscent of an explosion or certainly a loud bang and both dogs refuse to go into their own garden when they hear them. If there is a lull in the noise and the dogs can be lured out for a lead walk, they inevitably get scared by a boom, put their heads down and literally run home. In the likely event that the dogs hear the noises when they are inside the house, they instantly become agitated. One dog will rise from her bed and spend the entire evening on the stairs landing, refusing to move. The other dog is more severely affected. He will pace around the house and pant excessively. His ears will register every boom and his eyes will be wide. He will try to hide somewhere; under the stairs, on the bed or under the duvet on the bed. As soon as he finds a place to hide, we leave him alone to calm as much as possible. In these circumstances, it is almost impossible to get either dog to toilet and so our only option is to drive about six miles away to an out of town industrial estate, where the loud booms are more muffled. The nights when this drive is essential are Halloween, seven to days around Bonfire Night (including a school display a mile down the road which is rarely on the 5th) and New Years Eve when firework noise is more or less constant from 6pm onwards.

59. Brenda

I have a two year old rescue staffy called Sasha, she was abused by previous owner for the first 11mths of her life. As a result she is still quite a nervous dog. On bonfire night and Christmas, and new year we had a very distressing time with her, she isn't able to tolerate fireworks, she gets extremely panicky, and violently shakes and whimpers, she ended up hiding in the wardrobe in our bedroom, we tried putting TV on, closing windows and curtains playing music to try to drown them out but nothing worked, it wasn't just one or two nights they were going off but the whole week it was ridiculous and extremely unfair to my dog. She even got into such a panic she ended up breaking our internet cable. I think it is extremely unnecessary to distress animals in this manner and something needs doing to change things.

60. Jennie

I have 2 dogs, a staffy x lab and a jrt mix. My staffy lab is noise phobic. She has shut down in the past, trembling, panting hiding under a desk. I am working with her on this problem and have used several different methods. She was so bad one year that I used diazepam but had to use so much she was out of

it. We are at a point now after a lot of hard work that I can calm her and reduce the trembling and panting if I am aware that fireworks are going to happen. However when they go on for long periods of time or are extremely loud she is hard to calm. This has also had a bad effect on her general well being as she has become very noise sensitive to loud noises and bangs in everyday life. She was part of a display team but I had to pull her out of that as she couldn't cope with noises we encountered at events.

It's the noise that upsets her. Surely fireworks do not need to be so loud and they appear to get louder each year. The bang is not a part of the display of lights created.

My other dog who didn't react now picks up on her fear and reacts as well although not to the same extent.

61. Emmi

I would like to report exactly what occurs in our household when fireworks are detonated within hearing distance, day or night. One of our dogs, a gentle placid Golden Retriever suddenly appears at our sides, shaking, panting and crying. She is absolutely distraught. She is panting so hard that saliva drips from her mouth and we are worried for her welfare, worried that her heart won't be able to cope with her body's reactions. Her eyes reflect only pure terror and fear. She tries to claw her way into dark corners, trying to hide from the sheer horror of what she is being subjected to. If there are no dark corners, she tries to dig into the carpets to hide. She attempts to climb onto us and has ripped denim jeans with her claws on several occasions. This behavior lasts throughout the time that the fireworks are going off and for at least half an hour after they have finished. We have purchased her a 'Thundershirt', Bach's Rescue Remedy and 'Pet Remedy' - and nothing helps her. Currently fireworks can be let off at any time and we have no warning when the next barrage will start. Our dog has had eleven years of hell. All over the country animals, domestic and wild are subjected to this inhumane suffering. In addition to this, all the people who suffer Post Traumatic Stress Disorder also have to live through this frequent and unnecessary hell.

62. Linda

The 'Firework Season' that we now have to endure absolutely ruins my life for weeks on end! I absolutely dread that time of year.

For weeks on end I have to watch my poor little dog suffer horrendously. There is absolutely nothing that will settle her. She shakes uncontrollably, cries and her heart races; she paces the house looking up at the ceilings. The fact that they go off night after night, week after week.....she starts to get scared as soon as it gets dark.

I cannot plan to go out in the evenings during the autumn months unless someone is at home. I am also a prisoner in my own home during the days running up to Bonfire night, the weekend before and the weekend after Bonfire Night as I cannot leave my house. All down to other people's selfish and uncaring behaviour!

I am also unable to go out on New Year's Eve anymore due to the Fireworks. I cannot leave my dog for the fear that she would literally be scared to death and I would come back home to her dead.

I have spent many a night in tears due to the sheer hell of seeing my dog in such a traumatised state and not being able to do anything about it.

I have had to resort to giving her prescribed diazepam from the vets for the weekend before Bonfire Night, Bonfire Night and the weekend after Bonfire Night. The same too for New Years Eve.

It can only be described as like living in a warzone where I live. These are not 'pretty visual fireworks, these are loud bombs. Totally unacceptable in built up areas.

I have a friend who takes her dogs to the Isle of Mull every November to escape the Firework hell. Why should people have to go to such lengths to escape this hell?

Why is acceptable for anyone to be able to buy explosives 365 days a year and let them off whenever they feel like it?

The law is totally inadequate. How can the law stop anyone setting off fireworks outside the permitted times? The police force don't have the resources to dedicate to firework misuse either. You can't report fireworks when you don't know where they are being 'discharged'.

It is time to put a stop to this hell. This is not acceptable in a civilised society.

It is my opinion that Fireworks should only be set off in a safe, organised setting. But at least if we have to continue to endure this madness please put a stop to the loud bangs!

63. Samantha

I heard about this opportunity to voice how fireworks affect my pets and also the animals I look after in my work as a pet minder and dog walker from Jill Cutsforth on the facebook fab against fireworks group, so please see my story below. I have also used this to forward as my personal statement within the longer letter to my local MP, in order to encourage him to fight against selling fireworks all year round.

My own pets – cats and those I look after in my own work as a local pet minder and dog walker are all affected and suffer unnecessarily with the excessive noise and constancy of fireworks being set off at all hours of the day. To some extent at least if I am at home I can attempt to calm them but normally it results in my own terrified cats running desperately to hide for a considerable period of time, even after the debacle has ended. It is a familiar story for many of my pet minding and dog walking clients with some of them wetting themselves and exhibiting varied symptoms of being terrified – hiding, cowering, losing their appetite due to the fear and stress, crying out and remaining unsettled for significant periods after the fireworks have stopped. Unfortunately we can't all be at home all of the time and with the fireworks going off at all times of the day and night the animals are frequently at home alone terrified and suffering perpetually at the expense of a supposed few minutes of human enjoyment. It always makes me extremely concerned that this goes on year on and year out, but the poor animals that are outside during these events will suffer even more and lay pray also to those that look to directly and deliberately harm animals with the explosive fireworks. If this was happening to human beings it would have been stopped a long long time ago but still here we are trying to fight for the rights of animals and

prevent any further attempts of cruelty to them directly and indirectly through the continued public use of fireworks. It's time this was finally addressed as per the details below. . . (this latter point refers to the rest of the fireworks sale letter I sent on to my MP to encourage his support)

64. Nicki

As a child, I always looked forward to having a few fireworks on firework night, aka bonfire / Guy Fawkes night etc.

Compare those few days of reasonably quiet fireworks with the situation that we've had to endure since the millennium , nowadays, Firework night has become firework season and the use of fireworks to celebrate any number of things , seems to be on the increase, as does the volume of the fireworks themselves.

I heed the advice of the RSPCA and keep my dog indoors when I am expecting fireworks , but it's almost impossible to block the noise of them these days, because they are so loud, maybe they are a maximum of 120 decibels, but a rocket exploding over your house at 120 DB makes a very scary bang for anyone suffering from anxiety disorders and animals are particularly badly affected.

People these days just don't seem to care about the stress that they cause people and animals , as long as they can have their fireworks at all times of the evening or night and the louder the better it would seem.

Fireworks badly affect my dog and from the first night that he hears them, he is on edge listening every night , if he hears any on following nights, his stress gets worse each time, until, by Christmas, he only has to hear a car go over the traffic bump outside my house and he starts panting and shaking.

And then we have the anti social fireworks, when I was young, the bad yob kids used to put bangers in peoples dustbins or throw one onto their lawn, of course, they weren't very loud and didn't cause much nuisance. However, the fireworks available to the public today can and have, blown up things such as phone boxes and have destroyed wheelie bins. How long is it going to be before some amateur " terrorist" starts using these big fireworks to try to kill and maim people?

A friend of mine has to have a permit, plus secure locked storage facilities, to buy black powder (gunpowder) for his muzzle loading musket, yet anyone over the age of 18 can buy and possess these dangerous explosives which are supposed to be garden fireworks.

Do I want to see all fireworks banned ? No I don't.

Do I want a ban on these massive and loud cat 3 fireworks sold to the public? yes I do , they are anti social and potentially lethal.

I'd like to see organised displays only , they are safer, everyone knows when they are, so can take action to be out of the area during the display .

Failing that, I'd like to see quieter fireworks on sale for a shorter period , with a maximum of ten celebration dates per year.

Fireworks on new years eve hasn't been with us for many years, I believe that it started at the

millennium celebrations , since then , the new years eve celebrations have spread to any night between Christmas night and the night before everyone returns to work , this really is unacceptable and ruins many peoples Christmas and new years celebrations.

I haven't been out on a new years eve for quite a number of years, purely because I daren't leave my dog home alone for fear of fireworks scaring him .

I sincerely hope that the government listens to the stories of how fireworks affect a significant part of the population . Only a minority actually use fireworks , but the impact on people and animals lives is widespread

65. Sue

Whilst it is true that the sale of fireworks is restricted, there is no law governing the storage of those fireworks once bought. They can be stored at home and legally used at any time so long as the curfew of 11pm (outside of the traditional dates) is adhered to. This poses very real problems for pet owners like myself – I cannot leave my dog unattended at any time after dark from mid-October to mid-January, not because there will be fireworks but because there might be. This means I am effectively housebound in the evenings for a quarter of the year because if I go out I could well come back to a very distressed animal who has caused damage to herself and/or my property, how can this be fair. Also I am a horse lover and used to keep my own but after losing him last year I will not have another until the risk of injury from random fireworks is removed. I am not against traditional firework dates or organised displays, so long as they are well advertised. If I know it's going to happen I can arrange to be at home and on other nights I would know I can go out.

66. Melanie

It was a summers evening, late August, about 4 or 5 years ago now, and I had decided to walk my dogs, 2 GSD's and 2 Alaskan Malamutes, with my mum. We walked around her village, which is about a mile from where I live. I was on the second outing and had my male GSD and female Alaskan Malamute with me.

We were quietly walking down the small main street about 9pm and it was just getting dark, when fireworks started to go off. These were no ordinary fireworks, but the commercial 'bombs'. How do I know that, well they were being let off by the very people that have the licence to buy these commercial fireworks for the local village display. They had seen me walk past, yet when I was only a few feet away they started to let them off. The ground shook, my malamute started screaming, but they still kept letting them off. Thankfully, my dogs were on a dogmatic headcollar and collar, which had the ends of a training lead clipped to each, otherwise my malamute would have got away. I have never seen fear like it. She screamed and screamed, threw herself around, desperately trying to run. But still the firework bombs came. In the end she had got herself in such a state that she passed out. My mum had to phone my friend for help, so that she could come with her car and pick us up so that we could get my dogs to safety. My malamute was ok, she came round from her faint, but the emotional scars are still with her. I suffer from MS, and walk slowly with a stick, I still to this day have nightmares about it. If they hadn't

been double leaded and attached to my walking belt, goodness only knows what would have happened. To top it all, in the struggle to get away, the lead had snapped my wrist backwards and broken it, so I had to endure a few weeks in plaster.

We called the police, and the local PCSO paid us a visit the next day. She then took it up with the parish council and the people involved were warned. An apology was issued to the parish council by them, but never to me. Even to this day if they see me they will do everything to avoid me.

The result of all this is that my poor dog has insurmountable issues with loud noise. We live rurally, bird scarers, rabbit shoots etc are quite normal. But for a traumatized dog it makes life hell. Thunder storms are now something to scream at, along with anything from a distant gunshot to a car back firing. Rural or not, firework night and new year are a nightmare. I ask every year for those in the local vicinity just to give me the nod if they are having them, but most still don't. We cope, with a loud TV, a thunder shirt, calming sprays, and valerian. We haven't gone the way of vet prescribed sedatives, as we tried it once and it actually just made her more hyped.

I would love for these awful things to be banned. My dogs quality of life has been changed forever, due to the thoughtless actions of a few individuals.

68. Linda

I support the FAB campaign as fireworks have greatly affected my adult life as an animal lover and pet owner. Before 1999 my first dogs fear of fireworks was controlled by sedation from the vet as they only ever happened on 5th November . However leading up to the millennium the use of fireworks exploded, literally, and it was so hard to keep him calm for the full period around 5th Nov and New Year. An elderly dog then, I was so scared he was going to have a heart attack. He used to try to hide behind the toilet, it was very distressing to watch him.

I have had dogs since losing my first and have two now, none of them suffer the fear the same as my first but they don't like them. I do however have two petrified cats who I try to keep in, but the fireworks go on so long it is not fair on them. They suffer with cystitis due to the stress. I also get concerned when seeing birds flying round in the dark and hear sheep bleating at 11pm. Allowing this to happen is animal cruelty as far as I am concerned and should not be seen as acceptable just because a lot of people like them.

I know I am not alone in my concerns and if nothing is done to control it now it will escalate and become much worse in the future. Really do we need fireworks for weeks in November to celebrate one day, do we need them Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Eve, New Years Day, and every other day to celebrate someone's birthday in the Neighborhood. It has become ridiculous!

69. Maggie

I live in Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire and the people round here obviously have too much money to spend on fireworks. This year they had to be the worst ever starting the 2 weekends before Halloween - I fled to North Wales for Halloween itself. Over Bonfire Night they started 3 days before and continued

every night for another 3 weeks. My poor dog started to shake as soon as it became dark and spent the rest of the evening totally distressed - even trying to come in the shower with me. Wouldn't eat her dinner until about 10pm when she thought it was safe. Ruined my social life for the next 3 weeks as she would start to shake if she thought I was going out so I couldn't possibly leave her. Just got life back to norm and we had them Christmas Day, Boxing day and the Sunday. Cleared off to Wales again for New Year as they're too poor for fireworks up there - had the some total of one! Back home, apparently they were horrendous, starting about 8pm through to past midnight. Apart from these, we are always having random fireworks parties that wake you up in the night with a dog trying to crawl into the bed. I have many horses and during the summer I cross my fingers when I leave them out at night as on 2 occasions people in gardens backing onto their field have let fireworks off right next to them, once when we were on holiday. Lovely to get a phone call saying your horses have gone through the fencing when your thousands of miles from home. Luckily, not too much damage done. Now I am free from doing tax returns I will try and support the cause as much as possible.

70. Gaye

I have an 8 year old golden retriever who, as a youngster, took all noises in his stride. However, after a particularly prolonged and excessively noisy fireworks season, he is now a shivering wreck within a short time of hearing fireworks. His only desire is for comfort so he tries to get on my lap (he is a large dog so this is somewhat tricky) and his shaking is so bad that I do fear for his heart. It has now got to the stage that the vet has prescribed diazepam – he says that Mika now has the memory embedded within him and so he is unlikely to ever be able to be desensitised. I am concerned that his fear will spread to my other dog who has up to now not reacted to any fireworks noise other than to become extra alert. I had two dogs years ago who had never reacted to fireworks, until we had another dog to stay who did react, and his fear became contagious. I then had to watch my poor dogs suffer each year, until they became deaf which was a blessing in disguise. I do everything I can to minimise the noise impact but the season is now so prolonged (October to February at least) that it is impossible to predict when you are going to hear them, and I can't keep my dog drugged just in case. There is nothing more pitiful than watching a dog shaking so badly that you fear for his life and, bearing in mind that as dog owners we are 100% responsible for their health and welfare, you feel so helpless at being unable to take that fear away.

71. Karen

I own 2 horses and 3 dogs. I also run a DIY horse livery yard from home. I live in a pleasant rural little village, Charlton Adam TA11 7AR in Somerset. My immediate neighbours farm over 2,000 goats

November 5th fireworks cause both my liveries and me an enormous amount of extra expense and work for days surrounding 5th November. Generally we can expect firework bangs from the previous Friday and weekend to the following weekend. This means that we have to keep the horses stabled overnight for 10 days. This means a lot of extra bedding and hay. Some horses need doses of tranquilisers from the Vet. I have to leave the stable lights and overhead lights on all night to lessen the flashes, which is wasting electricity but helps the horses.

I estimate the extra expense for EACH horse is a minimum of £40 (add £30 extra for tranquilisers) not to mention the extra time and labour we have to put in for mucking out etc. We also have to litter pick the fields every day as fireworks are always aimed in our direction as our fields are directly behind houses.

However, once people have been able to buy fireworks they then hoard them and let them off randomly up to New Year's Eve. This behaviour has increased over the last few years and makes it extremely difficult to manage those animals who are more sensitive, be it a cat, dog, horse or farm animal or our sensitive wild life. Often fireworks are let off after 11pm. It is usually impossible to pinpoint the source, and in any case we are mobilised to calm and settle our animals not chase round trying to find the cause of what often sounds like World War III.

I firmly believe that fireworks should only be allowed at organised displays – as they are in other countries. At the very least could it only be 5th November and the weekend nearest to it and not more, plus New Year's Eve and the Chinese New Year only, rather than this ongoing nightmare. This way we could at least keep our animals safe.

The disruption and distress that these random firings cause to vulnerable people, companion animals, horses and farm livestock are not acceptable. My neighbours' goats are particularly sensitive to fireworks and there are usually casualties if the fireworks are too near.

I would also mention that wildlife are particularly affected. For instance, our lovely owls usually disappear for weeks until they pluck up courage to come back. This is a pattern of behaviour I witness annually.

Fireworks are now being used a legal 'weapons' to intimidate and harm and surely this abuse must be regulated?

Fireworks are also a fire risk and my other neighbour has a long thatched roof and I am always fearful of our hay store and our bedding store.

There are many compelling reasons to limit the sale of fireworks to the general public and I urge that changes are made as soon as possible.

72. Mags

I will find the picture and videos of my little Yorkies trying to squeeze into a 3inch gap between my fridge and the wall because of these damn things and my other Yorkie hiding under my stairs shaking uncontrollably „thank you for doing this on behalf of my six dogs and myself xxx

73. Suzy

When you sign the petition, there is an option to notify your MP by email. This I did, and received a letter back in which my MP listed the controls currently in place: Police are able to issue fixed penalty notices to people aged 16 and over for a range of offences relating to fireworks including throwing, possession of a display firework and possession of a firework by a person under 18. There is a curfew on

the use of fireworks from 11 pm to 7 am, except for bonfire night, New Years Eve and the Chinese New Year, where the cut off time is extended to 1 am. I had an incident last year, where teenagers were launching rockets against a garden fence, after 11pm when I thought it would be safe to take my Giant out. He was frightened and still refuses to walk in that area at night. Had I known these facts at the time, I would have called the police and got them to deal with it. I think fireworks should be restricted to organised displays, where the dates are advertised so that you can be prepared. With the ad hoc nature of bangs going off for a week either side of bonfire night at the moment makes it impossible to follow RSPCA guidelines. Sorry this is long, but I wanted to pass this info on."

74. Denise

My pet dog was scared of fireworks and bangers - one night coming up to Halloween someone threw one into the storm porch which echoed and she had a stroke because of it. She was PTS that night - it broke my heart and I am 110% behind banning the use of ever since!

75. Carole

Pissed off with tv programs!! Sat watching come dine with me this afternoon when all of a sudden fireworks started banging and flashing and my poor dog was scared to death! It took ages to calm him down! My other two were fine it doesn't affect them but my poor Arnie was a mess! Why on earth don't they put a warning on like they do for strobe lights that affect epilepsy!! Dogs are just as important as humans and shouldn't have to go through this! It's bad enough them going off willy nilly outside without notice but tv he reacts just the same! So fed up, he doesn't need this stress as he suffered with meningitis for a long time so the less stress the better! I just wish these people would think about what they are doing and how it affects others!!

76. Suzanne

My dog now suffers noise phobia, is on Prozac and I'm more than likely going to have to pay for a behaviouralist as she will not leave our house to go for a walk.

77. Emma

WTF! Fireworks? Why? The dogs just shit himself. Not what I need. A grizzly baby and a petrified spaniel. Grrr

78. Sue

Hi. I signed the petition ages ago and shared on facebook . I'm afraid I have not written to my mp as I already have an ongoing case against a clay pigeon shooting place three miles from where I live and I don't want her thinking I just complain about everything. My dog is a total mess because of the shooting five days a week 7 hours a day and is now too scared to leave the house or car most of the time. I work full time and I'm spending my free time hassling the council and the clay pigeon shooting place as well as trying to work with my dog and entertain him without walking him. He is now scared of any noise. And I think the fireworks in November didn't help. He is now on prozac so we can try to get him calm enough

outside the house to be able work with his fears. I have spent the last six weeks filling in forms for the dog behaviorist I have had to employ because of it. It's all I've been able to think of I'm afraid or I would be able to help more than just sign your petition

79. Rodney

I am a pensioner and live alone. Until recently my companion dog provided me with my only companionship and friendship. Due to medical problems in her joints she was especially vulnerable to physical injury and every autumn and winter I feared for her physical and emotional safety due to the prolonged fireworks noise throughout this period.

Fireworks used to be a traditional celebration on and around Guy Fawkes Night but they now occur continuously from around mid-October of one year and through into mid-January of the next year. I was unable to allow my dog into the garden at any time during this period because fireworks now occur at all times of the day including the daylight hours. Even walking her in the streets on a lead during daylight hours was no longer safe because of the risk of loud fireworks noise.

I have always tried to take precautions to protect my companion dog on the traditional fireworks celebration nights around November 5th and the actual evening of New Years Eve but it was impossible for me to protect her from fireworks noise continuously for three months of the year.

Fireworks caused my companion dog great misery and suffering and I believe that unlicensed use of fireworks outside the traditional Guy Fawkes and New Year Celebration dates should be banned. I believe this is a common view amongst many elderly pet owners.

My dog passed away recently due to an unrelated medical issue but I wish that my last winter with her had been free of the the constant fear that she would suffer injury or trauma due to some sudden and unanticipated fireworks noise.

80. Maisie and Monty

I am afraid that Maisie will hyperventilate or have a heart attack when she hears fireworks. This went on for weeks this year. We have to sedate her she is so bad , her health must suffer as a consequence . She is only young so we could have years of this. It would be impossible to get her away for weeks every year during this period. Surely these fireworks can be used during a limited period. When I was young they only lasted a few nights. Maybe people who loose their pet or a pet dies through firework related incidents could get together and put claims in to the government! !!

81. Sprollie

I ride and made the mistake of riding after dark about a week before guy fawkes 3 years ago. i was riding along and someone set off fireworks in a garden right next to where i was walking, i guess they never saw me. my horse understandably must have thought the world was ending and took off at a flat out gallop up the canal bank. i only just managed to stop him before the main road. we could easily have ended up under the wheels of the lorries and buses that were passing. It wouldnt have been the drivers

fault. The folk who had the fireworks were completely oblivious but it still nearly got me and my horse killed. if folk would even stick to one night it wouldnt be so bad but it does seem to go on for weeks. Years ago our collie was lost overnight away from home after a bout of fireworks at new year. fortunately we found him about 8 hours later jammed in a bush. for a while though we really thought we might not find him again as it was not his home territory and the hills adjacent lead onto the wilderness of the highlands where he might not have managed to make back to us. its the randomness that makes it such a problem, would also help so much if they were not groundshakingly loud. the scynical bit of me thinks it must jsut be worth too much money to someone high up for anything to change. afterall i think tesco belongs to some relative of the pm and fireworks sales must be worth a pretty penny to tesco alone. frown emoticon got to try tho

82. Lis

My story is similar to Deb Ashton - except I haven't quite had to resort to a dog behaviourist yet! My 2-year old spaniel/terrier cross got to the stage where he wouldn't go out even in the garden on his own; between us my dog-walker and I have got him to the stage where he will go out but the shooting season has started here, and that is a nightmare. First bang, that is it ... back to the car. Or straight back into the house and hide under the table. Now I don't expect to be able to stop the shooting, but that never used to bother him, it is the frighteningly loud fireworks that have triggered it. Other countries have "silent" fireworks - why can't we?? They are, after all, supposed to be a visual display? And it isn't just animals who suffer - a friend on Facebook mentioned she had a friend who was deeply affected by fireworks going off, as she had been caught up in the London bombings

83. Diane

My old dog Max RIP was never bothered by fireworks and wasn't bothered when the shoot came to our local fields. But that all changed Millennium New Year!! The fireworks that year were so loud and he became so distressed he tried to dig up a corner of a concrete floor under a table. After that we could never go out and leave him if we thought there was fireworks going off which was fine if you knew they were happening!!! Imagine my anger when a neighbour decided to set off fireworks to celebrate his daughters birthday and didn't think to warn me. Fortunately I was in!!! We also could not have him on the yard if the shoot was happening and he loved to be with me and the horses. For Max I am passionate about this petition - he went from a soft soppy boy to a quivering wreck at the slightest sound of fireworks.

84. Margaret

This is Alfie who we rescued back in 2008, dear Alf had had several owners and been in our friends shelter twice - suffered cruelty and neglect. Alfie suffers from separation anxiety BUT more than that he is or rather was terrified of bangs. He used to shake, cry and try to bury himself during the constant onslaught of fireworks. It was heartbreaking to see him like that especially as our staffy who doesn't bat a eyelid would get visibly concerned about his buddy. Sadly he has had a few strokes and is 15 this month, maybe going a bit deaf and senile but the one thing I suppose is a positive to him getting old is after the strokes he appears to have forgot he was frightened of fireworks.

85. Sandra

Please be aware - a friend of mine was riding her horse along the A510 Thrapston Road on Sunday when a car drove past her (the car was going towards Thrapston) & threw a firework at them. Apart from being rather sore where the horse threw her off in fright they are both ok. This could have been a whole lot worse! What mindless idiots do things like this!!!

86. Carole

I emailed a letter to our local community newspaper describing our experience with our little dog and the fireworks on New Years Eve. Also brought in veterans with PTSD, elderly patients especially those with dementia, parents of small children etc. Had terrific response. One reply struck me. "People think you're a killjoy and spoilsport if you go against noisy fireworks" we need to get over this. What price should thousands of people and animals have to pay for fun? Not acceptable. Fun needs to be harmless, not distress the weak and vulnerable. My MP, Mark Spencer was less than supportive of my first letter. He will be getting copies of the letters I have since received from his constituents, and he had better read them and shape up

87. CS W

At the end of the summer there was a big party held 4 fields away. We weren't notified but some farmers were and they did about 5 minutes of fireworks but far enough away to just about here them. Then at 23;15 (I checked) there was 6 enormous bangs right outside here. I at first thought it was gunshot but inside seconds another burst outside the opposite window made me realise what it really was. Well above shop bought decibels too. I went out but before I got near the lane 4 more went off, most no more than 30-40 feet up, one almost in the power lines, one directly over my hen house and my grazing animals were going ballistic. Inside 2 of my dogs were also terrified (both are rescue and not good with loud noises)

I yelled as loud as I could that they should stop firing them over my fields and I would sue them if any of my animals got damaged....They laughed but when I really exploded and made fire the lane they ran off....

I had a sheep that needed stitching up and a swollen leg. the rest totally traumatised, terrified horses and dogs and 2 dead chicken....

I guess I was lucky the power wasn't also damaged!

The next door field was full of cattle but thankfully they were running about but not in calf and still young so none damaged themselves.

88. Amber

Here is my story for your evidence file. My name is Amber McClean, I live in SL2 2NX and I have 6 rescue cats, some are feral and cannot live indoors. They are all absolutely terrified by fireworks and if they are

outside when they hear a bang, they bolt for it and don't come back. Therefore I try to get them in every day at 3.30pm before it goes dark, which is incredibly difficult especially with the feral cats. Even once inside the house (as per government recommendation), they are still terrified of the noise and go into hiding, whether it's behind the sofa, or in a corner in the bedroom, or press themselves flat to the stairs. They don't come out to eat, drink or use the toilet. When they do move about, they are very very nervous and slink with their bodies close to the ground as they would near a predator. All this also has a big impact on my life as it means I can't go out and leave them. Every night I keep thinking "surely there can't be any more fireworks" and then without fail there are more every night and for a few nights unfortunately I wasn't quick enough to get my cats in. There have been fireworks every single night since 31 Oct, starting as early as 4.30pm and ending as late as 1am. Every year in the past I have had to collect a lot of firework shells which have landed in my garden.

89. Clare

9pm 29th February 2016, my 10-month old dog was alone in the garden when fireworks were let off close by. The dog was terrified and ran into the house for protection. He was a super-confident dog with no hang-ups or fears. Now he flinches or runs to hide from sudden loud noises (eg. a motorbike, the neighbour hammering, the vacuum cleaner).

We acknowledge with thanks the statements sent to us. We appreciate that for many of you who sent them, writing down such personal and private experiences for strangers to read has not only been difficult but in many cases distressing.

Thank you to all members of the campaign