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Audrey Nicoll MSP
Convener
Criminal Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament

Email: justice.committee@parliament.scot

30 October 2025

Dear Convener,

Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022

Thank you for your letter of 28 October 2025 seeking clarification about the implementation of provisions within the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 Act. I hope the following is helpful in setting out the current position.

To date, four out of six key measures provided for within the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 have been implemented. These are:

- A prohibition on providing or making available fireworks or pyrotechnic articles to children;
- A new statutory aggravation for courts sentencing offenders where fireworks were used to attack emergency workers;
- New discretionary powers for local authorities to designate firework control zones; and
- New offences of possession of pyrotechnics in public places and at designated venues and events.

After careful consideration and assessment, it was decided to pause the implementation of restrictions to the days of supply and use of fireworks (within Part 3 of the Act) and the implementation of a licensing system for those wishing to use fireworks (within Part 2 of the Act) due to significant financial and resource consequences of introducing a complex licensing system for people who want to buy fireworks.

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I informed the Criminal Justice Committee of the decision to pause the restricted days of supply in March 2023 and of the fireworks licensing project in December 2024. The position has not changed, and we are keeping the pause under review, in the context of assessing how existing measures are impacting the nature and pattern of disorder over bonfire night periods.

The 2022 Act continues to be central to our work to tackle the misuse of fireworks, and the provision of the Act continue to be an important tool to keep communities safe. I welcome that Glasgow and Edinburgh are this year implementing Firework Control Zones and will be working with local authorities and Police Scotland to assess the impact of these so that we can learn from this year's experience. I also welcome the close partnership work ongoing across a range of agencies in preparation for Bonfire Night and particularly recognises the commitment of our emergency services, which work hard to keep our communities safe.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siobhian Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SIOBHIAN BROWN

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