

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Freedom of Information Request regarding Fireworks.**

I am writing from Blue Cross, a pet charity dedicated to improving animal welfare in the UK. We are currently in the process of contacting all relevant Local Authorities in the UK, requesting **details relating to local authority restrictions on fireworks.**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would like to make the following request for information relating to any restrictions of fireworks by your local authority.

**Fireworks**

- 1. Does the local authority impose any restrictions on the sale, possession and use of fireworks?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Yes	

- 2. If yes, what restrictions are in place and which local byelaw (/ legal mechanism) does it fall under?**

Retailers of fireworks must be registered or licensed by the Department of Justice (DoJ) under the Manufacturer and Storage of Explosive Regulations (NI) 2006 (MSER). Environmental Health Officers (EHO) within Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) are authorised on behalf of the DoJ to inspect retailer premises registered under MSER to ensure compliance with the requirements of this legislation. Fireworks available for retail sale must comply with the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015 and to purchase/use fireworks of category F2, F3, and F4 requires a licence as issued by the DoJ. EHO's from DCSDC will on behalf of the DoJ enforce the provision of this legislation and will apply the guidance within the Health and Safety Executive Guidance documents HSG 123 and HSG 124 to fireworks displays as appropriate.

- 3. Who within the local authority is responsible for enforcing this?**

Authorised Environmental Health Officers of Derry City and Strabane District Council

**4. How many complaints has the council received in relation to fireworks in the last 3 years:**

2017	2016	2015
0	0	1 complaint of the illegal use of fireworks was received by the Council and was passed to the PSNI as the appropriate authority to deal with same.

**Restrictions on sky lanterns and balloon releases**

**1. Does the local authority impose any restrictions on the use of sky, or Chinese lanterns, and balloons on land controlled by the local authority?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	No

**2. If yes, what restrictions are in place?**

DCSDC provides advice via its Safety Advisory Group to event organisers on the Civil Aviation Authorities guidance via CAP 736 "Operation of Directed Light, Fireworks, Toy Balloons and Sky Lanterns within UK Airspace" and advice from the Industry Code of Practice on Sky Lanterns.

To assist you, the information requested above may be returned to: [publicaffairs@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@bluecross.org.uk)

We are extremely grateful for your earliest co-operation and assistance in this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

If this request has reached you in error, please forward to the relevant department or officer in your constituency.

Thank you in advance,

Public Affairs Officer  
Blue Cross