

SCANCE Contribution

The Minister for Community Safety will introduce the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill to Parliament on 1 February 2022 to provide tighter restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks, and to address the misuse of pyrotechnic articles. This follows a public consultation during summer 2021, which demonstrated support for all of the proposed measures.

The provisions within the Bill are: a fireworks licensing system requiring members of the public to obtain a licence to purchase and use fireworks; restrictions on the days that fireworks can be used by and supplied to the general public (including provisions to allow Scottish Minister to establish a compensation scheme for specialist firework businesses, including specialist retailers); the ability for local authorities to designate Firework Control Zones within their area where it is not possible for the public to use fireworks; a proxy purchasing offence relating to the supply of fireworks and pyrotechnic articles to children; and the prohibition of possession of fireworks and pyrotechnic articles at certain events such as public processions and designated music festivals and sporting events).

Due to significant public interest, The Minister for Community Safety is seeking an accelerated timetable to enable the Bill to pass through Parliament in advance of summer recess 2022. If this is achieved the proxy purchasing offence will commence in advance of the bonfire season in November 2022. The other provisions within the Bill will not commence by November 2022 as a number of provisions require secondary legislation before operational commencement, while the restricted days of supply requires retailers to be provided with sufficient time to adapt their processes before commencement of the provision.

Speaking Note

- There is a strong desire for greater control on the sale of use of fireworks in communities across Scotland for reasons ranging from the misuse of fireworks, attacks on emergency services, firework related injury as well as the noise and disturbance of fireworks both on those with noise sensitivity as well as to animals.
- [redacted s36(1)], two updates were required to the draft Bill before introduction; a provision to allow Scottish Ministers to establish a compensation scheme for specialist firework business that would be most impacted by new proposed measures and a provision relating to review in the Firework Control Zone provisions which lead to the delay in introduction of the Bill to Parliament from December to early February.
- The Scottish Government recognises that legislation in and of itself is not enough to tackle the issue of fireworks misuse, and alongside legislative changes and as outlined in the Fireworks Action Plan we will continue to focus on preventative activity, awareness raising and education to support behaviour change and a positive cultural shift in the relationship that Scotland has with fireworks.

Name of Official: [redacted s38(1)(b)]

Extension Number: [redacted]

s38(1)(b)]