

# STATES OF JERSEY



## CONSULTATION ON FIREWORKS AND OTHER PYROTECHNICS

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**Lodged au Greffe on 8th December 2025  
by Deputy M.B. Andrews of St Helier North  
Earliest date for debate: 20th January 2026**

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**STATES GREFFE**

## **PROPOSITION**

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

to request the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs to undertake a public consultation on the use of fireworks and other pyrotechnic articles in Jersey, to be commenced no later than December 2026, with the aim of –

- (a) gathering views from the public, animal welfare organisations, and other relevant stakeholders, regarding the impacts of fireworks and pyrotechnics, including the effects of noise and disturbance on pets, livestock, and individuals;
- (b) seeking views on whether current laws and administrative practices require reform on the sale, possession, and private use of fireworks; and
- (c) inviting feedback on possible measures to mitigate the negative impacts of fireworks and other pyrotechnic articles, including (but not limited to) –
  - (i) the issuance of permits or licences for private fireworks displays; and
  - (ii) mandating the use of quieter fireworks;

and to present the findings of this consultation, together with any recommendations for future policy or legislation, to the States Assembly no later than June 2028 and prior to lodging any new Regulations under the Explosives (Jersey) Law 2014.

DEPUTY M.B. ANDREWS OF ST. HELIER NORTH

## **REPORT**

### **Background**

For some time, I have been concerned about the impact fireworks have on animals. I am aware of several owners of pets who are disconcerted with the current use of fireworks in the island. Each time a firework display takes place their animals are impacted. I feel it is a great shame that action has not been taken sooner despite the fact several petitions have been launched across the last decade requesting action.

### **The current predicament**

I firmly believe revisions are needed for the Explosives (Jersey) Law. The 2014 Law itself was registered in the Royal Court in October 2014, but the law has not come into force, which requires States Assembly approval of the regulations. It means the use of fireworks is still regulated under the Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970.

### **The Petitions**

Since 2018, several petitions have been launched requesting reform. Of these petitions, none have proven to be successful apart from [Ban any fireworks for sale in Jersey unless they are low noise fireworks. - Petitions](#) which received 1,742 signatories. The then, Home Affairs Minister, Deputy Guida, stated it “is unfortunate that work to bring these Regulations into force has been unavoidably delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.” Another petition that garnered traction was [Make fireworks with a ‘bang’ illegal in Jersey to prevent the stress of animals. - Petitions](#). The Minister for Home Affairs responded to the petition which received 2,639 signatories as follows:

*‘while the Minister shares the concerns of the petitioners in relation to the inconvenience and distress that noisy fireworks can cause to vulnerable people and animals, she cannot support this petition, as there is no clear mechanism to allow ‘loud’ fireworks to be banned. However, although she considers that a balance must be found between the right of people and animals to peaceful enjoyment and the right of individuals to celebrate events, there is certainly a strong argument that current regulatory arrangements are insufficient, and she does not support the current permissive arrangements for the direct sale of fireworks to the public. She would like to see greater controls on the availability of fireworks, especially the larger and (most likely) louder types and will bring proposals to that effect in the form of revised Regulations during her term of office’.*

Regrettably, the Ministers’ term in Office was cut short due to the vote of confidence. With a new Home Affairs Minister appointed, the Minister was tasked with implementing the VAWG recommendations which I fully endorse. With that said, the delay in bringing forward amendments to the Law continues to have a profound impact on animals as the new Home Affairs Minister deprioritised the Explosives Law.

### **The harm to animals**

Several constituents have commented on firework displays taking place over several days or weeks which causes distress to some animals. One islander had the following to say about the frequency of firework displays impacting their dog:

*It's not on one day at a public display but weeks on end. Then there's Christmas, New Year, and now Weddings are having fireworks displays. It's getting out of control. Other countries have silent fireworks and spectacular drone displays instead. Why is Jersey 10 years behind in everything?!*

Another islander shared a bad experience they had with a neighbour whose loud fireworks display impacted their dog and another neighbour too:

*Laws on fireworks in the UK and Jersey have not kept up with the times so that a minority of people now think it is acceptable to have fireworks on any night of the year and for any occasion even if they live in a densely populated area where there could be numerous people and animals affected by sudden unexpected loud explosions. I had harsh words with a neighbour once (only time in my entire life!!) as they had loud fireworks on a night in October which terrified us and our dog and an old lady next door to them was very badly affected. Thankfully they seemed to have realised it was not a great idea and got the quieter ones for the next time. I think the majority of people really are quite fed up now with the endless disruption and distress fireworks are causing.*

We must be cognisant that the use of certain fireworks does impact animals as well as members of our island community. There was a recent incident where a donkey called Mary died of a heart attack which was potentially caused by the stress of fireworks being set off. Making the [following statement](#) the owners of Mary had this to say:

*We are all utterly heartbroken and devastated to have to announce the sudden and unexpected passing of our adored donkey Mary on the weekend. Up until the time of her death she had been a young bright healthy donkey with absolutely no signs of illness. It is strongly suspected she died from a heart attack possibly caused by the stress from fireworks. Mary was tough and stoic on the outside but like many donkeys (and other animals) was known to hide stress and fear on the inside.*

By the States Assembly not investigating changes to the law, it could amount to a dereliction of duty when animals and members of a community continue to be adversely affected. As politicians, we are duty bound to investigate amendments to the Explosives Law. There has been strong vocal support requesting reform, and importantly we need to be attentive to the issues that are raised. We also need to find a solution where a compromise can be found whilst preventing or minimising harm to animals and members of our community.

### **The Survey**

I conducted an online poll asking dog owners about options to reform the Explosives Law, which had a high number of responses with 354 survey participants. There were 35 survey participants who called for the banning of all fireworks. A further 249 survey participants supported restrictions to fireworks to official firework displays. Also, 49 survey participants showed support for fireworks being used within reformed noise designations. A minority of 21 survey participants supported 'other' forms of reform.

### **Purpose of the Proposition**

This purpose of this proposition is to ensure that the views of Islanders and relevant stakeholders are properly gathered before implementing changes to the Explosives Law. By setting a clear deadline for launching a new public consultation, the Assembly can ensure that the process is transparent, inclusive, and completed within a reasonable timeframe. I am requesting the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs undertake a consultation into the use, possession and distribution of fireworks to be commenced with no later than December 2026. Should the consultation demonstrate that there is a need for change then the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs is required to bring forward legislative changes before June 2028.

As always, I respect the views of others who wish the use of fireworks to remain the same. I, however, disagree with such sentiments and this is the reason why I am supportive of bringing about changes to the Explosives Law.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

There will be a staffing requirement within the department of Justice and Home Affairs to administer a consultation. Such work will be undertaken within the departmental budget. Should the consultation demonstrate support for legislative amendments then the legislative drafting team will be called upon to make the relevant amendments to the Explosives Law.

### **Children's Rights Impact Assessment**

I consider that this proposition (amendment) has no direct or indirect impact on children and that the duty to have due regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not arise. Accordingly, a Children's Rights Impact Assessment is not required under the Children (Convention Rights) (Jersey) Law 2022.