



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Dr Carolyn Wilkins
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Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01150343

07 July 2015

Dear Carolyn

Re; Council Resolution – Sky Lanterns

Further to my previous letter; please find enclosed a copy of a reply I have received from DEFRA in response to my letter on your behalf.

I am not sure how helpful you will find the response as it is clear the government has no intentions of banning the use of sky lanterns, but they do claim that some products have been taken off the market and guidance is available for the use of lanterns.

Please get back to me if you wish to respond to the reply.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Oldham West & Royton
Including Chadderton & Hollinwood

Encl.



**Department
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The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
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Our ref: MC378135/SA
Your ref: SB/OMBC01002/01150343

26 June 2015

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter on 12 June on behalf of your local council about sky lanterns.

Sky lanterns are a long-running issue and the Government is aware that there have been concerns about their safety. We can assure you that, not only do we take these concerns very seriously, but action is also being taken to deal with this issue. However it is worth noting that an independent study we published in 2013 about sky lantern safety found that the risks to animals or damage to the environment by sky lanterns were relatively minor.

You will appreciate that any action we take must be proportionate to the level of risk. Naturally, we do not want to stop enjoyment of celebrations, but we do want to ensure that people think twice about the impact of a lantern after it leaves their hands, and the potential consequences of where it lands.

We know that voluntary actions and initiatives to raise awareness of risks can be effective. For example, last year, the Trading Standards Institute published an industry Code of Practice for sky lanterns. The Code is available on the TSI website – <http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/policy/skylanterns.cfm>.

Over the last few years, at those times of the year when they are more likely to be used, we have publicised the risks posed by sky lanterns. In addition, certain types of sky lanterns have been removed from the UK market where poor product quality has raised concerns over fire or health risks to the consumer.

Thank you again for your letter.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



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