PE2175/A: Immediate ban on the sale and use of Disposable (Instant) Barbeques in Scotland

Scottish Government written submission, 8 August 2025

Does the Scottish Government consider the specific asks of the petition to be practical or achievable?

The ask regarding banning the sale of Disposable (Instant) Barbeques is not achievable in Scotland. Product standards and safety, and the regulation of the supply of goods to consumers are reserved matters. The United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 generally prevents banning the sale of an item in one part of the UK which can be freely sold in the others. As such, the Scottish Government does not have the legislative power to ban the sale of disposable barbecues.

Under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, a local authority has the power to introduce bylaws, for the whole or any part of their area, to put in place temporary bans on the use of barbecues, including disposable ones.

There is such a byelaw in place for Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, and Cairngorms National Park is currently developing a proposal for a similar byelaw.

What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition, and is any further action being considered that will achieve the asks of this petition?

The Scottish Government work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on fire safety messaging. SFRS are clear to encourage people to act responsibly both when using and disposing of the barbeques in line with their annual #safersummer campaign and have produced guidance on their website: Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Barbecue safety.

The Scottish Government and SFRS also encourage those using outdoor spaces to adhere to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code: NatureScot. This provides practical guidance to all those using those spaces including advice on camping and using a stove instead of an open fire.

With regard to wildfires, SFRS works closely with key partners, including land managers and communities, to establish a common understanding of the risks, prevention measures and response procedures. SFRS provide further advice regarding wildfires, how to prevent wildfires and stay safe, on their website: Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Wildfires.

Safer Communities Division