

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

Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy written submission, 3 December 2025

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2025, sent on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, regarding petition PE2175 on banning the sale and use of disposable barbeques.

You highlighted a number of queries raised by the Committee that I am happy to respond to, however, I would first like to provide a point of clarity on the effect of the UK Internal Market Act (UKIMA) on the sale of disposable BBQs. While the Scottish Parliament has the relevant powers under section 140 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as previously outlined, UKIMA could impact the effect of any new legislation those powers could be used to make.

In circumstances where the Scottish Parliament legislates to ban the sale and supply of a product, UKIMA could limit the legal effect of any such provision, given that items entering Scotland from elsewhere in the UK could still be legally placed on the market. Following a statutory review of UKIMA, new processes have been proposed by the UK Government to agree exclusions to the Act, principally through an administrative process under the relevant Common Framework. Notwithstanding any potential improvement under that process, without securing an exclusion to UKIMA, the legal effect of devolved legislation regarding the sale of disposable BBQs remains uncertain, however, it will be kept under review for all products.

With that in mind I can confirm that Siobhan Brown MSP, Minister for Victims and Community Safety wrote to Emma Reynolds MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural, on 29 October 2025, to seek the view of UK Government regarding the continued sale of disposable barbeques across the UK from a fire safety perspective. Mary Creagh, MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature, responded to this letter on 20 November 2025, noting that the UK Government currently has no plans to introduce a blanket ban on disposable barbeques. The Under Secretary of State outlined some of the awareness raising work ongoing in England and is keen to continue a dialogue with Scottish ministers on this issue.

In terms of working with Local Authorities to ban the use of disposable barbeques within relevant spaces - whilst it is for Scottish Ministers to approve byelaws proposed by local authorities, it is a matter for each council to decide how to manage its day-to-day business, including whether there is a need to introduce byelaws within their local areas to implement a ban on the use of barbeques at times of high risk.

The Scottish Government recognises the seasonal dangers and damage associated with disposal barbeques and we remain committed to doing all we can to support local authorities to implement strategies, including the use of byelaws, to address these risks in the interests of our local communities. However, I note the point raised

regarding timescales and will ensure that any proposals from a Local Authority will be duly considered.

With regards to tackling the issue from a circular economy perspective, the Scottish Government is taking concerted action to transition from the current linear “take, make and dispose” economic model to a circular economy. Our draft Circular Economy Strategy includes plans to develop a product stewardship plan to target the impact of priority products, which could consider further bans on single use items where appropriate and proportionate.

There are currently no immediate plans to ban the sale of disposable barbeques in Scotland to achieve circular economy outcomes. However, we continue to consider the impact of single use items on our environment, communities and attitudes to resource use, alongside the known risks that disposable barbeques pose to public health and wildfires.

You had also noted that it might be helpful to improve guidance to the public during times of wildfire risk. We are exploring public awareness campaigns, reviewing fire bans and byelaws, promoting responsible access and looking at an early warning system regarding high risk periods for wildfires, as we know that prevention of wildfires is key. There is support for a yellow-amber-red warning system to be developed going forward to improve public understanding. It is anticipated that this may mirror flood and storm alerts, with the aim of providing graduated warnings (yellow-amber-red) to help the public and responders understand risk levels and take appropriate action, such as refraining from using camp-fires, stoves, barbeques and any other ignition sources during periods of high wildfires risk.

I hope this response is help to the Committee, do please let me know if you have any further questions. I have also shared this response with the Minister for Victims and Community Safety.

Yours sincerely,

GILLIAN MARTIN