

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee  
Wednesday 29 October 2025  
16th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

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

### Introduction

**Petitioner** Paul White

**Petition summary** Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to table new legislation which will ban the sale of disposable barbeques by retailers and introduce on the spot fines for anyone using a disposable barbeque in Scotland.

**Webpage** <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2175>

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 14 July 2025.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 2,154 signatures have been received on this petition.
5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered.
6. The Committee has received a submission from the Scottish Government, which is set out in **Annexe C** of this paper.

### Action

7. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**October 2025**

## **Annexe A: Summary of petition**

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

#### **Petitioner**

Paul White

#### **Date Lodged**

14 July 2025

#### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to table new legislation which will ban the sale of disposable barbeques by retailers and introduce on the spot fines for anyone using a disposable barbeque in Scotland.

#### **Background information**

In the past 5 years, there has been a rise in irresponsible outdoor access, which combined with climate change, has increased wildfire risk significantly. This spring/summer has been one of the warmest and driest on record and we have already seen several major wildfires. The Isle of Arran wildfire destroyed 27,000 trees. The Glen Finglas (Trossachs) wildfire destroyed several hectares of woodland (directly caused by a disposable barbeque). And more recently, one of the largest wildfires in Scottish history in Dava / Lochindorb with 11,800 hectares lost.

Along with campfires, disposable barbeques are the single biggest ignition risk for a wildfire. The heat transferred when placed on the ground can cause peat, heather and/or grass to burn which can start a fire. They are also a nightmare to dispose of and cannot be recycled. There are several safer and more environmentally friendly alternatives for those wishing to have a barbeque outdoors.

As climate change progresses, the continued use of disposable barbeques poses an increasing threat of causing wildfires, which continue to cause devastation to our communities and wild places across Scotland.

## Annexe B: SPICe briefing on PE2175



The petitioner is calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to table new legislation which will ban the sale of disposable barbecues by retailers and introduce on the spot fines for anyone using a disposable barbecue in Scotland.

### Wildfires in Scotland

The [Scottish Fire and Rescue Service \(SFRS\) webpage on wildfires](#) sets out:

- Wildfires are classified as large, uncontrolled outdoor fires exceeding 1,000 square meters of burned area on appropriate land types.
- Wildfires “place a huge drain” on resources and pose a significant threat to the safety of firefighters and to communities. Climate change is making wildfires more dangerous and extending the period when wildfires happen.

The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) monitors wildfire emissions and resulting smoke transport across the Atlantic. It [reported on 31 July 2025](#) that the total estimated wildfire emissions for the UK in 2025 are already the highest on record (over 23 years of data), and that this was “primarily driven by the large wildfires that impacted Northern Scotland during the final days of June and the beginning of July”. This is discussed further in [analysis published by CarbonBrief on 8 August 2025](#).

### Wildfire risks and barbecues in Scotland

A [disposable barbecue is a barbecue designed for single-use](#), outdoors and generally comprising of a foil fuel tray, grill grid and charcoal.

The [SFRS advises](#) to avoid use of barbecues on flammable surfaces or near vegetation during prolonged dry weather, and have emphasised this recently [in communicating wildfire warnings issued to the public](#). The [SFRS webpage on wildfires](#) sets out that most wildfires are started by human activity, mostly commonly due to:

- Unattended flames including “barbecues, campfires, and bonfires”
- Glass bottles i.e. sunlight shining through a glass bottle.
- Controlled burns for land management, gone out of control
- Deliberate fire setting
- Careless cigarette disposal
- Weather conditions

[Guidance on barbecues and open fires in the outdoors has also been published by NatureScot](#) (prepared by a sub-group of the National Access Forum). It explains how fire is covered by the Outdoor Access Code and includes guidance on relevant regulations and visitor management.

The guidance recognises that lighting fires and having BBQs are part of public enjoyment of the outdoors, but states that “over recent years there have been heightened concerns about risks from a range of factors coming together”, including new types of fire related equipment, increased numbers of people, and concerns about risks to the environment and public safety. It also states that climate change is having an impact on weather patterns with associated higher fire risks, evidenced by some significant wildfire incidents.

Other public bodies are also raising concerns and taking action in respect of wildfire risks associated with disposable barbecues in vulnerable areas (for example [NatureScot](#) and [Forestry and Land Scotland](#)). The [Cairngorms National Park Authority has recently submitted a ‘fire management byelaw’ proposal to Scottish Ministers](#) which, if approved, would ban the use of disposable and other (non-gas) barbecues in the Cairngorms National Park (except from in certain circumstances e.g. on private property under control of the occupier) between 1 April and 30 September each year. Local authorities in Scotland also have byelaw-making powers which could be used to restrict the use of barbecues in public areas such as parks.

The Scottish Retail Consortium (SRC) has published [voluntary guidelines](#) for shops aims to support the responsible retailing of disposable barbecues during extreme heat events, which encourages shops to educate customers on the safe use and disposal of single-use barbecues and help prevent wildfires. In [April 2025 the SRC issued a press release](#) seeking to encourage consumers to dispose of barbecues safely (including after use, ensuring the product is completely cool before disposal). Some retailers have halted or restricted their sale of disposable barbecues e.g. during summer in response to concerns about wildfires (e.g. [the Co-op said in 2021 it would no longer sell disposable barbecues](#) in or within a certain radius of UK National Parks).

## **Disposable barbecues and the circular economy**

Disposable barbecues are not recyclable as a whole product due to the combination of materials, although some parts may be recyclable e.g. if brought home and materials such as foil tray separated. It is not clear what proportion of materials are recycled in practice (although [it was reported in the media in May 2025](#) that “Of the estimated one million-plus disposables sold in the UK each year, the vast majority are going straight to landfill”). Zero Waste Scotland (a public body) [encourages the public to use reusable barbecues](#).

## **Powers to restrict products for conservation purposes**

Scottish Ministers can introduce regulations under section 140 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to prohibit or restrict the importation, use, supply or storage of

injurious substances or articles for conservation purposes. These powers have been used a number of times to restrict single-use plastics, most recently to ban single-use vapes via [the Environmental Protection \(Single-use Vapes\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#).

New product restrictions, such as a ban on certain single-use items, may engage the market access principles in [the UK Internal Market Act 2020](#) (UKIMA) and as such require either a UK-wide approach or an agreed exclusion from the UKIMA principles in order for any restrictions in Scotland to be effective in practice. More information [is available in a SPICe blog](#).

**Alexa Morrison, Senior Researcher, SPICe**

21 August 2025

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at [spice@parliament.scot](mailto:spice@parliament.scot)

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

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## **Annexe C: Written submission**

### **Scottish Government written submission, 8 August 2025**

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

##### **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 barbecues 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**