

PE1367/G

Public Petitions Committee

T3.40

The Scottish Parliament

EDINBURGH,

EH99 1SP

Date 18 November 2010

Your Ref

Our Ref C&F/PP/AG/kf

Dear Sir/Madam

Scottish Parliament Public Petition PE 1367

The City of Edinburgh Council would like to respond to the following written questions of the Petitions Committee:

What is your position on banning Mosquito and other such devices?

What powers did you use to ban the use of the Mosquito devices?

What is your position on banning Mosquito and other such devices?

The City of Edinburgh Council has agreed **“to do anything in its powers to prohibit the use of the ‘Mosquito’ device in Edinburgh”** following a motion submitted to Council on 26 June 2008:

“Council supports a ban on the use of the ‘Mosquito’ device, which is currently being employed as a method to deter young people from congregating in public spaces. The use of such a device is an infringement on human rights and is a discriminatory and degrading practice against children and young people.

A ban on these unregulated devices would address many of the concerns of Police, children’s welfare groups, Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People, and human rights organisations such as Liberty and the Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

To show support for the young people of Edinburgh, Council should sign up to the ‘Buzz Off’ campaign currently being run by the Children’s Commissioners in Scotland and England and agrees to do anything in its powers to prohibit the use of the ‘Mosquito’ device in Edinburgh.”

As a result of the motion, the City of Edinburgh Council has signed up to the ‘Buzz Off’ campaign against mosquito devices and the device is currently banned from all Council premises. The City of Edinburgh is not aware of any other premises currently using the mosquito device and has not received any complaints about the use of mosquito devices in Edinburgh. The City of Edinburgh Council does not have the power to ban the mosquito device from non-Council premises. However, if it could be shown that the use of the device constituted a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act, the Council could serve a notice to restrict the operation of the device.

Yours faithfully

Andy Gray, Head of Planning and Performance

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