



Home Office

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- 9 OCT 2012

David Stewart MSP
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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- 4 OCT 2012

CTS Reference: M14314/12

DLW W Stewart

Thank you for your letter of 20 September to the Home Secretary on behalf of the Scottish Youth Parliament, about the Scottish Parliament Public petition on banning the use of 'Mosquito' devices. I am replying as the Minister for Crime Prevention.

The use of the Mosquito is not currently prohibited or regulated under UK law. It is a commercial product and is not endorsed by the Home Office or the Association of Chief Police Officers. The UK Health and Safety Executive has concluded that based on the information and evidence available, while some short-term subjective effects are possible with prolonged exposure, there would appear to be little likelihood of people exposed to this device suffering long term effects.

We note, however, public concerns over the use of the device and the legal position is kept under review. It is also worth noting that under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, anyone experiencing nuisance noise in their home (e.g. caused by a Mosquito) can contact their local authority, which will investigate.

It is for the police and other local agencies to decide on the most appropriate approach to anti-social behaviour in a particular area, based on their knowledge of what works best locally, for people of all ages. That approach may or may not include the use of Mosquito devices, but agencies have a responsibility to communicate with people in the community, including young people, to involve them and take account of their views.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Browne MP
Minister of State