



Action on Hearing Loss Scotland
Empire House
131 West Nile St
Glasgow
G1 2RX

Ms Anne Peat
Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

24 October 2011

Dear Anne

Mosquito Devices

Thank you for contacting Action on Hearing Loss Scotland for our views on PE1367 on Mosquito Devices.

We reiterate our position that the then Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing MSP, quoted at a meeting of the Committee in the last Parliament.

The 'Mosquito' emits a very high pitched sound (16.5-17 kHz) that is just within the range of human hearing for young people but will not be heard by most people over the age of 25 years. As we get older, we gradually lose our hearing - and we lose it from the high frequency end of the sound spectrum first. Many young people can hear the very high pitched 'echo-location' sounds that flying bats make, for example, but older people can't. This is part of the same process that results in age-related hearing loss in later life. Gradually the loss of hearing acuteness starts to affect - not just very high pitched sounds - but also high frequencies that are part of the sound of speech, making it sound muffled so that it's hard to follow what people are saying.

We understand that the sound from the 'Mosquito' can become extremely annoying to young people, but is not at a level that will cause any damage to hearing.

PE1367/U

We cannot comment on whether or not the 'Mosquito' should be banned or not.

Kindest regards

Shabnum Mustapha
Communications and Campaigns Manager