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Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company  
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.  
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

Ms Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
The First Minister  
Scottish Government  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear First Minister,

I write concerning your Government's current campaign being run under the "Safer Scotland" initiative to promote responsible use of fireworks.

While Animal Concern welcomes this initiative we would much prefer to see a total ban on the ownership and use of fireworks by members of the general public. For many years we have campaigned for firework ownership to be restricted to trained, qualified and licensed experts and the use of fireworks to be restricted to public displays licensed and policed by local authorities. We would like to see their use restricted to a few specific dates/periods in the year with a requirement that all displays be well advertised to allow pet owners and others likely to be adversely effected to take action to minimise any distress.

I note that the powers required to ban the public ownership and use of fireworks currently rest with Westminster. If the SNP is in the position to do so after the General Election I urge you to use your MPs to try and have full control over fireworks devolved to Holyrood or, better still, to encourage and lead the cross-party support which exists and could be utilised to bring in a UK wide ban on private ownership and use of fireworks.

There is one aspect of your current advertising campaign which concerns me. In the ads the public are encouraged to report misuse of fireworks to Crimestoppers. Misuse of fireworks is a potentially very dangerous criminal offence and if witnessed should be reported to the police on 999 in the hope of a quick response and the arrest of those responsible.

I would be grateful if you would tell me the number of publications in which adverts have been placed and the total cost of the current Scottish Government advertising campaign being run under “Safer Scotland” to promote responsible use of fireworks. If necessary please regard this as a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and/or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004. I have copied this email to the Scottish Government FOI office.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,  
Animal Concern