

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Together  
Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights  
Rosebery House  
98 Haymarket Terrace  
EDINBURGH  
EH12 5EZ

[info@togetherscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@togetherscotland.org.uk)

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Dear Together,

Following the Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and their supporters open letter to all MSPs calling for a ban on mosquito devices and Together's comments I wanted to write to you to provide an update on work that the Scottish Government has been taking forward.

I can assure you that the Scottish Government continues to oppose the use of mosquito devices and remains committed to upholding the rights of children and young people. We have been very proactive in taking action to minimise the impact that these devices have on children and young people.

- We have lobbied the UK Government to take action on these devices. They have no plans to introduce a ban, licence or restrict the use of these devices.
- We wrote to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requesting that they carry out testing of mosquito devices to give us the conclusive evidence of the impact on health these devices can have. Unfortunately the HSE declined to take any action or to commission new research in this area.
- We wrote to all local authorities clarifying the Scottish Government's position opposing their use. All local authorities have now confirmed that they either do not use or no longer use the device.
- ScotRail has also confirmed that it no longer uses mosquito devices at any stations across their network, and both Police Scotland and the British Transport Police do not use mosquito devices as a way of tackling antisocial behaviour. The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 currently provides sufficient measures to help police and local authorities deal with antisocial behaviour wherever it arises.

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- Through the engagement that we have carried out, we have not been able to identify any widespread use of these devices.

In order to consider the ban on the use of mosquito devices more fully we have spoken with some specialists in the sensory and other relevant fields. They have confirmed that there is no evidence available on any long term health impacts of mosquito devices. As I am sure you will appreciate, ethical reasons prohibit undertaking research on the prolonged impact of these devices on young people. We are however investigating whether there are any other research options.

We have not concluded our considerations on the implications and practicalities of banning or limiting the use of mosquito devices. As I am sure you will appreciate, the Covid-19 crisis has impacted severely on the work of the Scottish Government with many staff diverted to support the Covid response, and this area of work had to be temporarily suspended.

As we move forward with this work it would be helpful for us to be informed of the location of any actively used devices which Together are aware.



**Ash Denham**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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