

**PE1818/A**

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning submission of 6 November 2020

Thank you for your letter of 2 November seeking the Scottish Government's views on Petition PE01818, calling for the Scottish Government to implement regulations on the ownership and use of residential trampolines. Please accept my apologies for not having responded to the Committee sooner.

Temporary or moveable structures, such as trampolines, do not generally require planning permission and we have no plans either to extend the requirement for planning permission or to introduce a system of licensing for them as the petition calls for.

Whilst we understand that the petitioner presumably has had a personal negative experience of neighbours having a trampoline, we are not aware of any evidence to suggest there is an issue that requires that to be solved by legislation through licensing for trampolines. We note that the suggestions for what the licensing requires are particularly restrictive and would be particularly onerous for local authorities, for example needing a licence in advance of ownership of a trampoline, requiring the consent of neighbours and regular reviewing of the licence.

We do not believe a licensing system for trampolines is an effective use of the public funds that would be needed to introduce and maintain such a system, or that it is a proportionate response to any concerns about their use.

Everyone has a right to enjoy the outdoors – whether public spaces or private gardens – and we are supportive of the steps people take to ensure that children can play and undertake physical activity in the interest of their health and wellbeing. We appreciate that neighbour disputes, arising for many different reasons, can cause difficulties for people. However, with any personal disputes of this nature we would recommend they are resolved informally wherever possible.

We promote inclusive and respectful communities in which all people live in safety and security, where individual and collective rights are supported, and where disputes are resolved fairly and swiftly. In Scotland we already have the most comprehensive antisocial noise nuisance regime in the UK, if not Europe. We were one of the first countries in the world to introduce intervention levels for day, evening and night time domestic noise. Local Authorities have a duty to investigate complaints about noise, conducted by trained environmental health officers, under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. I would encourage anyone affected by noise issues to make contact with their local authority.

I hope this is helpful to the Committee.