# Harrow Council's targeted crackdown on nuisance fireworks with new hotline and patrols



A council in West London has taken a proactive stance against the misuse of fireworks by launching a dedicated hotline to combat nuisance fireworks during October and November. Harrow Council's initiative arrives amid concerns over reckless and antisocial behaviour involving fireworks, which intensified last autumn, causing distress to many local residents. The hotline, operating from 6pm to 10pm daily between October 17 and November 7, enables the public to report incidents of dangerous fireworks and noise disturbances in real time. Outside these hours, residents are advised to contact the police non-emergency number for illegal fireworks activity.

This clampdown aims to cover key festive periods including Diwali, celebrated on October 20, and Guy Fawkes Night on November 5, both traditionally marked by fireworks displays. Harrow Council's enforcement teams will be actively patrolling streets and parks every evening and weekend during this period. Councillor Pritesh Patel emphasised the council's commitment to addressing the issue, highlighting the distress loud, unexpected fireworks can cause to people and pets alike. He described last year's instances of fireworks being set off dangerously on public roads and spaces as "completely irresponsible and unacceptable" and flagged the council’s enhanced measures, including CCTV monitoring and on-ground officers, to ensure safety and curb nuisance behaviour.

The enforcement of fireworks restrictions in Harrow reflects a broader legal framework observed across London boroughs. Fireworks are generally prohibited between 11pm and 7am, with exceptions for specific occasions such as Bonfire Night (midnight), Diwali (1am), Chinese New Year (1am), and New Year's Eve (1am). Various councils, including Barking and Dagenham, Eastleigh, Richmond upon Thames, Hounslow, and Oxford, adhere to similar curfews. Enforcement of these regulations typically falls to the police, with councils encouraging residents to report infractions accordingly. A notable legal point is that setting off or throwing fireworks in public places is illegal, and sales to under-18s are prohibited under trading standards regulations.

Safety advice from the London Fire Brigade further complements these measures, recommending that members of the public attend organised fireworks displays rather than private ones, which should conclude before 11pm. Their guidance stresses the importance of fireworks safety, proper handling, and awareness of legal time restrictions to prevent accidents and disturbances.

The Harrow Council initiative represents a coordinated response combining community engagement, enforcement, and safety promotion to mitigate the impact of fireworks on residents' quality of life during the autumn festive season. By offering a dedicated hotline alongside increased patrols, the council aims to ensure that celebrations remain safe and enjoyable for all, especially those sensitive to noise disturbances.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/north-london-council-launches-hotline-32695695), [[4]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/fireworks/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/north-london-council-launches-hotline-32695695), [[6]](https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/noise-nuisance/noise-nuisance-fireworks)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/pests-pollution-noise-and-food/report-nuisance-noise/noise-fireworks), [[3]](https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/nuisance/noise/common-noise-complaints/fireworks), [[5]](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/housing/noise_and_nuisance/fireworks), [[7]](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/noise-pollution/noise-control-fireworks)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/fireworks/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/north-london-council-launches-hotline-32695695), [[6]](https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/noise-nuisance/noise-nuisance-fireworks)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/north-london-council-launches-hotline-32695695> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/pests-pollution-noise-and-food/report-nuisance-noise/noise-fireworks> - The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham provides guidance on reporting nuisance noise from fireworks. Fireworks set off before 11pm are not considered a noise nuisance and are not investigated. However, fireworks set off after 11pm should be reported to the police. The council investigates fireworks noise from domestic or commercial premises, while street fireworks noise should be reported to the police. Exceptions to the curfew include Bonfire Night (midnight), Chinese New Year (1am), Diwali (1am), and New Year's Eve (1am).
3. <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/nuisance/noise/common-noise-complaints/fireworks> - Eastleigh Borough Council outlines the legal framework for fireworks use and noise complaints. It is illegal to set off or throw fireworks in the street or other public places. Fireworks are prohibited between 11pm and 7am, except on specific occasions: Bonfire Night (until midnight), Chinese New Year (until 1am), Diwali (until 1am), and New Year's Eve (until 1am). The council advises contacting the police for fireworks in public places or outside permitted times, and Trading Standards for issues with loud fireworks or sales to underage individuals.
4. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/fireworks/> - The London Fire Brigade offers comprehensive safety advice on fireworks. They recommend attending public firework displays for safety and enjoyment. If hosting a private display, ensure it finishes before 11pm. The use of fireworks is prohibited between 11pm and 7am, with exceptions on Bonfire Night (until midnight), Chinese New Year (until 1am), Diwali (until 1am), and New Year's Eve (until 1am). The guide also covers who can buy fireworks, categories of fireworks, and safety tips for bonfires and fireworks.
5. <https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/housing/noise_and_nuisance/fireworks> - The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames provides information on fireworks regulations. It is against the law to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on Bonfire Night (until midnight), New Year's Eve, Diwali, and Chinese New Year (until 1am). The regulations are enforced by the police, not the local council. The council advises contacting the police on 101 if fireworks are being let off in the street or outside the permitted times.
6. <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/noise-nuisance/noise-nuisance-fireworks> - The London Borough of Hounslow addresses noise nuisance from fireworks. Fireworks can frighten people and animals, especially children and the elderly. The council notes that there are no restrictions on the sale of fireworks other than the prohibition of the sale to anyone under 18 years. Traders must apply for a licence to supply fireworks all year round. The use of fireworks is prohibited between 11pm and 7am, with exceptions on specific occasions. The regulations are enforced by the police, not the local council.
7. <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/noise-pollution/noise-control-fireworks> - Oxford City Council discusses noise control for fireworks. They do not take action on noise complaints about fireworks, as there is no specific law to deal with noise nuisance caused by fireworks. The council advises using fireworks considerately, including informing neighbours, using appropriate fireworks, ensuring pets and animals are safe, and avoiding letting off fireworks in unsuitable weather. Fireworks are prohibited between 11pm and 7am, with exceptions on specific occasions. The regulations are enforced by the police.