

Dear Retailer,

Summer 2026

As I'm sure you're aware, since May this year we have experienced several heatwaves and extended periods of hot weather, so the ground is now tinder dry. We are seeing sustained hot temperatures, significant wildfire activity and forecasts indicating that these conditions will persist.

Already in the first six months of 2026 there have been 36 heathland fires across Dorset, causing long-lasting damage to wildlife and destroying precious heathland habitats, not to mention taking essential resources away from other emergencies.

With this in mind, we implore you to consider removing disposable barbecues from sale.

Disposable barbecues are a serious fire risk, and while most of Dorset is at very high or above on the Fire Severity Index, it is crucial to remove risk wherever we can.

We are not asking your customers to stop barbecuing or eating outside; we are simply asking them to choose a safer, reusable option or to choose a picnic instead, and we need your help.

Recently the National Fire Chief's Council wrote to the British Retail Consortium to enact the Voluntary Guidelines for Disposable Barbecues, requesting that retailers consider removing disposable barbecues from sale during the high-risk conditions we are currently seeing. This is the first time the voluntary arrangement has been enacted since the BRC guidance was introduced – a testament to the severe risks we are currently facing.

Shockingly, only one major retailer heeded this call.

You have the power: act now to safeguard your community from the severe risk of wildfire and protect Dorset's precious landscapes and sensitive habitats.

We hope you will consider this reasonable request, and we look forward to celebrating those responsible retailers who choose to take action.

Kind regards,



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