

Pupils 2 Parliament

Pupil Special

THE LAW ABOUT POISONS AND EXPLOSIVES

**Written by Roger Morgan
for the Pupils of St George's Academy, Clun**

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Hi, you pupils of Clun !

Thank you to all of you who did our survey on the law about poisons and explosives .

This *Pupil Special* is to tell you what YOU all said.

Really well done, all of you!

Roger Morgan

We were thinking about how the Government could make sure that people can buy dangerous chemicals and explosives for their work.

But how at the same time, they could stop criminals getting hold of poisons and explosives.

Most of you said that people should NOT be able to buy poisons or chemicals that could be used by criminals, just because they need them for their hobbies.



Nearly all of you said the law should carry on saying that people have to have a special licence before they can buy a dangerous chemical. And nearly all of you said the law should carry on saying that people selling dangerous chemicals must report anything suspicious.



And they should report it if any dangerous chemicals get stolen.

But almost all of you thought the law doesn't say enough to stop criminals getting hold of dangerous chemicals.

You want more to be put in the law to stop them getting those chemicals.



So I have sent that message from you to the Government.

I told you about three of the Government's ideas for extra things they could put in the law.

You thought all three of these ideas would make it harder for criminals to get hold of dangerous chemicals.

Top of your list was ...

Make people selling these chemicals keep a record of who buys them for 18 months.

This is so the police can check on them if they need to.



Second came this idea ...



Make people selling dangerous chemicals ask for details about everybody who comes to buy them

And this idea came **third ...**

Make anyone selling dangerous chemicals online keep to the same rules as someone selling them from a shop or a warehouse

Lastly came ...

Make people selling dangerous chemicals decide whether the person really does need them for their proper work or hobby



These might stop criminals getting dangerous chemicals



But make a lot of work for everyone selling chemicals

So I asked how would YOU feel about that, if you were a person selling chemicals?

Here are some of the things you said ...

I'm not sure!

Even though it would be extra work I agree that people should do it

I think it would be a good idea because it helps everybody else

I should have someone with me

I think it is a very good idea because the person who you want to know about later, you've got lots of details about

Then I asked you whether you all thought people who sell dangerous chemicals WOULD actually do those extra things.



Your answer was ...

They will only do the extra things

SOMETIMES

That is another very important message from all of you that I have sent to the Government



You voted on even more ideas from the Government about how to make it harder for criminals to get hold of dangerous chemicals ...

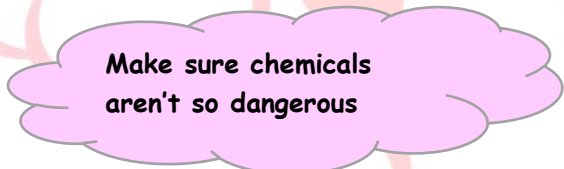
**Most of you agreed with the Government's ideas (except for one of them!)
But you thought some were better than others.**

Here are the results of your votes !



You gave **FIRST PLACE** to
Making dangerous chemicals less strong

One of you said ...



Make sure chemicals
aren't so dangerous

You gave **SECOND PLACE** to

Putting more chemicals on the dangerous chemicals list –

so people selling them have to follow all the same rules as they do for the chemicals that are already on the list

I think all poisons and explosive chemicals should be added to the list

The idea you voted into **THIRD PLACE WAS**

Making people who sell dangerous chemicals do an **ONLINE REPORT** if they are suspicious about someone trying to buy a poison or a chemical that can be used to make explosives

or if any of those chemicals get stolen



But you **DISAGREED** with one of the Government's ideas ...



THEY proposed that sellers of dangerous chemicals should only have to report what they already know about somebody suspicious

YOU proposed that if they are suspicious about someone trying to buy dangerous chemicals, then they should have to ask them even more questions

Here's a list of extra things pupils have said a seller should be able to ask for, to check on someone they are suspicious about ...

Background checks

Police checks

Photo ID

A business ID card

Two sorts of ID

Proof of their address

Proof of how long they have been in this country

A letter from two witnesses confirming why the person needs the chemical

Check that the buyer is over a certain age

Things you thought the Government needs to be careful about



I asked you to write anything else you wanted to say about the Government's ideas.

You wrote that they need to be careful about three things that they don't seem to have thought of ...

FIRST

You said they need to take care, because being more suspicious about people buying dangerous chemicals could lead to innocent people getting suspected, not just criminals

SECOND

If people selling dangerous chemicals have to try to spot criminals, they might worry that they will get blamed if it turns out that they didn't manage to spot a criminal who bought chemicals from them



THIRD

There should be checks on people who are allowed to sell dangerous chemicals, as well as checks on the people they sell them to

People selling chemicals online should also have to be checked out.

The shop keeper selling chemicals could be a criminal under disguise

What if someone in the shop is stealing things?

This is what one of you from Clun wrote about the idea of doing more checking out of people who want to buy dangerous chemicals ...

I would know it would be safer, but what if someone gives fake details or tells a lie, so if they were a criminal, the police couldn't track them down!

MANY OF YOU THOUGHT OF NEW PROPOSALS ABOUT POISONS AND CHEMICALS THAT CAN BE USED TO MAKE EXPLOSIVES

Here are the extra proposals from you, pupils of Clun ...

"Make the shops so where you must drive to and while they purchase the chemicals put a tracking device on their car and keep an eye on them to help save lives"

"Don't make any more chemicals unless it is essential"

"Keep a record of what suspicious things have been happening, so if they do it again they can punish them for doing it again"

"People should have a wristband if they need chemicals for their work"



Well done everyone, and thank you for your thinking!

Stay safe, everyone!

I am looking forward to our next Pupils 2 Parliament together!

Roger Morgan