PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 47
Answered on 17th October, 2025
Second Meeting 2025-2026 Session – Third Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

MR. ROY TATUM, MP
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF RED BAY

TO

THE PREMIER, HON. ANDRÉ M. EBANKS, MINISTER OF FINANCIAL SERVICES & COMMERCE

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Premier say whether the Government intends to bring forward legislation to give effect to Private Member's Motion No. 5 of 2023-2024 on the sale of pepper spray for self-defence and personal protection, and, if so, when such legislation is expected to be introduced in this Honourable House?

ANSWER:

Under the Firearms Act, items designed or adapted for the discharge of noxious liquid or gas, such as pepper spray, are prohibited. However, amendments made to the Act in 2024 were intended to provide that *"Cabinet, may by Order, permit the importation of such specified prohibited devices as it sees fit and the Order may include requirements regarding the licences, permits, possession and use of the specified prohibited devices".*

I am advised that, before any such Order is approved by the Cabinet, careful consideration should be given to the potential benefits and risks that may be associated with the importation, sale, possession and use personal protection substances.

Accordingly, this month our NCFC Caucus supported the establishment of a working group, to be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary (or his designate), and consisting of other key stakeholders, to prepare a full analysis of the potential benefits and risks (based on available up-to-date local and international research and/or comparative studies) so Cabinet can make an informed determination as to precise provisions that can be made to the present legal framework.

For instance,

i. how the sale of noxious personal protection substances will be safely regulated (including, as an example, whether sale will be permitted to persons with criminal convictions, or conversely whether there should be restrictions on possession by individuals under 18 years of age);
ii. what, if any, restrictions should be in place as to the capacity of noxious personal protection substances (such the permitted strength or size);
iii. what, if any, restrictions should be in place relating to the possession of noxious personal protection substances in certain public places (such as schools, licensed premises, hospitals, care homes, community spaces);
iv. what sanctions should be in place for breach of any regulatory framework (including criminal sanctions); and
v. what measures may be put in place to educate and sensitise members of the public to mitigate any associated risks.
vi. The said working group will commence its work next month and will be tasked with providing its analysis to the Cabinet detailing their findings and any recommended legislative amendments on or before 31 July 2026.

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