WRITE TO LETTERS@THETIMES.CO.UK

Wednesday May 18 2022, 12.01am, The Times

**MOTHBALL MENACE**  
Sir, James Morrison (letters, May 16 & 17) suggests that as part of the clear-out of surplus EU legislation the government should reinstate the use of naphthalene in mothballs. Given the known side effects of exposure to naphthalene, including haemolysis (destruction of red blood cells, especially in people with a specific enzyme deficiency), irritation of the skin and respiratory system, neurological problems and a likely link to cancer and kidney failure, let alone the risk of death with ingestion either intended or accidental (particularly in children), perhaps we should acknowledge that while some may have similar feelings towards our European neighbours as they have to moths, the former at least were often working in our best interests, and we would do well to retain the ban on naphthalene mothballs. **Anthony Cohn**  
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