Fact Sheet

Charnwood

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PREVENTING NUISANCE FROM INTRUDER ALARMS

Premises Alarms

This Leaflet sets out general information and your responsibilities relating to the installation and operation of audible alarms. However it is not a full explanation of the law.

Intruder Alarms

Noise made by the operation of audible burglar alarms is a common cause of complaint. Owners and occupiers who seek to protect their properties (whether domestic or commercial) by installing a system **or** taking over an existing system on acquiring premises have a responsibility to ensure the device fitted primarily for their own protection does not become a source of nuisance to their neighbours and the general public.

Section 1.01 The alarm system should be properly designed, installed and maintained as far as is reasonably practicable to prevent false alarms. Guidance is given in British Standard BS 4737 of 1987, as amended by BS 7150 of 1989.

Installation

To avoid disturbance to the public, all such alarm systems must be fitted with an automatic cut-out device, which will disconnect both the internal and external sounders, either bell or buzzer, after a period of not more than 20 minutes following activation. Such a cut-out device can be supplemented with a flashing light which will continue to operate after the sounder has ceased to alert the public and police to the alarmed state of the property.

All owners of newly adopted or installed alarm systems should:-

Inform the local police station in writing of the names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of at least two 'nominated key holders' who can be called upon to de-activate the alarm in the absence of the owner;
and

Notify the Environmental Health Department of the installation of the system and the name of the police station holding the key holder information.

Best of all leave a key or contact details of a nearby keyholder with your neighbours so that if a false alarm it can be turned off quickly and easily.

Vehicle Alarms

Noise caused by the operation of audible vehicle alarms may also give rise to complaints of a nuisance. Owners who seek to protect their vehicle (be it a car, van or motorbike etc.) by installing a system of this type **or** who purchase a vehicle with an existing system fitted must be aware of their legal responsibilities

It is a requirement under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 to fit a 5 minute cut-out device to all vehicle alarms, and it is now an actionable statutory nuisance under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as amended by the Noise and Statutory Nuisances Act 1993 for the 'registered keeper' to allow an alarm to sound frequently **or** for a prolonged period, so as to cause a nuisance to local residents and people working in the immediate vicinity.

Where an authorised Officer of the Council witnesses the prolonged or frequent ringing of an alarm from a premises or an unattended vehicle, the Officer may serve a noise abatement notice, requiring the person responsible to de-activate the alarm and carry out works to prevent a recurrence of the nuisance.

Full costs of this action will often be recovered from the 'person responsible' or the 'registered keeper' of the vehicle. This may be in excess of £200.

- Vehicle alarms must be fitted with a 5 minute cut-out device.
- Set your alarm to a reasonable level of sensitivity to minimise 'false alarms'.
- Maintain your alarm system in good working order.

Protect your house. - silence that alarm!!

Over 95% of alarm incidents are due to false activations so the Police will now rarely visit properties with a ringing alarm. They've got much better things to be doing with their time.

The longer an alarm rings, the more obvious it is that no one is at home. A ringing alarm with nobody responding to it is an open invitation to any local crooks that they can have free roam of your house.

The best way to protect your house is to make sure that your alarm works properly and is reacted to by your neighbours if it does go off.

If you require more information please contact:

Directorate of Housing and Health
Environmental Protection
Charnwood Borough Council
Southfields, Southfield Road, Loughborough LE11 2TX

Tel: 01509 634636
Email: env.health@charnwood.gov.uk
Web: www.charnwood.gov.uk

We have more information about noise nuisance on our website:-

http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/safety/noisenuisance.html

This information is available in different formats. To access these please phone (01509) 634560.

এ তথ্যাদি অন্যান্য মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যায়। এসব পেতে হলে দয়াকরে (01509) 634560 এ নাম্বারে টেলিফোন করুন।

這資料具不同的格式，請致電 (01509) 634560 索取。

આ માહિતી જુદી જુદી પદ્ધતિઓમાં ઉપલબ્ધ છે. તે મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો (01509) 634560.

यह जानकारी अलग-अलग प्रारूपों में मिल सकती है। इनको पाने के लिये कृपया यह नंबर डायल कीजिये (01509) 634560.

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵਖ-ਵਖ ਸ਼ਕਲਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਏ। ਇਹ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ (01509) 634560