

Excessive noise can amount to a nuisance.

Noise emitted from an audible intruder alarm system or vehicle alarm for a long period of time following activation may be classed as a nuisance. Action can be taken under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to abate the nuisance.

HOUSE ALARMS

In 1981 a *Code of Practice* on noise from audible intruder alarms was drawn up. Part of the Code of Practice states that “within forty eight hours of installing a new alarm system or taking over an existing system the owner should:

Notify the Police of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two key holders

and

Advise the Environmental Services Department of which Police Station they have notified and sign an undertaking that should the alarm be activated a key holder

will silence the alarm within twenty minutes of activation”. Both of the notification forms can be obtained from Environmental Services.

If the alarm is activated and not silenced within the required time, the Environmental Services Department may have to take enforcement action in order to minimise disturbance to those living and working nearby. This may involve obtaining a warrant and entering the premises in order to deactivate the alarm. The cost of undertaking these works will be charged to the person responsible for the alarm.

Please remember that it is in your own interest to keep the records up to date.

CAR ALARMS

Car alarms that misfire can cause extreme disturbance, especially at night. Ideally, car alarms should be fitted with a 3 minute cut out device.

If complaints regarding car alarms are received by the Environmental Services Department, and the noise is causing a

statutory nuisance, an abatement notice may be served requiring the alarm to be deactivated. Every effort will be made to try and contact the registered keeper of the vehicle. If this is not possible and the alarm continues to cause a noise nuisance, the vehicle will be entered and the alarm will be deactivated or the vehicle may be towed away. The cost of undertaking these works will be charged to the registered keeper of the vehicle.

SHOULD YOU EXPERIENCE PROBLEMS

Should problems of excessive noise from a car alarm or burglar alarm occur and you are unable to resolve the problem by talking to the person responsible for the alarm, then Environmental Services should be contacted.

Environmental Services will endeavour to contact the owner and make arrangements for minimising the nuisance. Should you require advice on the types of alarm available please contact the Crime

Prevention officer at your local Police
Station.

The information provided in this
leaflet was correct at the time of printing.
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CONTROL OF NOISE FROM AUDIBLE INTRUDER ALARMS

