
Noise & Pollution Control Team

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Objectives

- To provide an overview of the Noise & Pollution Control monitoring service
- Consider best evidence
- Enforcement policy
- Provide statistics
- Answer any questions

Overview

- Leicester City Council's (NPC) Team operate a monitoring service to deal with noise, odour, smoke etc. from residential and commercial premises
- The team have additional workloads i.e. Petroleum, contaminated land
- 2 Team Managers job share, 8 FTE PCO/EHOs
2 Night Noise Support Officers (1 FTE)

Evidence

- Witness from the complainants property
- During service hours officers will visit
- Noise diary to be kept
- Noise monitoring recorders can be installed
- Best evidence is an officer to witness
- NMRs –complainant to provide statement
- The team have 6 NMRs

Enforcement

- Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- **1st noise nuisance** – informal warning letter and a request for the perpetrator to attend an informal interview. For commercial premises, officers will arrange a site visit.
- **2nd noise nuisance** – statutory abatement notice served
- **3rd noise nuisance** – invite the perpetrator in for a recorded interview under caution
- **4th noise nuisance** – application to court to obtain a warrant to gain access to a property to seize noise equipment or commence a prosecution (where equipment cannot be seized e.g. dog barking)
- **Subsequent noise nuisance** – further seizures, legal proceedings, review of premises licence, request action by the Criminal Anti-social Behaviour Unit (CrASBU)/Housing Management

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- **Pollution nuisances-** similar enforcement policy, but we would not seize equipment
 - **Landlords** – contacted for problem tenants
 - **LCC Tenants** – Joint Housing approach

Case study

- The NPCT received a complaint regarding loud music played in a flat in Highfields in August 2018. Further complaints were received from 2 other addresses about this LCC Housing tenant in November 2018 and January 2019.
- The first noise nuisance was witnessed on 14 Feb 2019. Loud music with intrusive bass beat was witnessed in a complainant's living room. An informal warning letter was delivered and the tenant was requested to attend an interview.
- A second noise nuisance was witnessed on 6 March 2019. The music was again intrusive in a complainant's home and could clearly be heard in the street. A statutory abatement notice was served on the tenant. A further noise nuisance was witnessed on 14 March 2019
- As this was the third noise nuisance a letter was sent inviting him to attend a formal interview under caution. This letter also advised that any further noise nuisances would result in a warrant being sought from Leicester Magistrates Court in order to gain entry to his home and seize noise equipment.
- On 9 April 2019, a fourth noise nuisance was witnessed. A warrant was obtained from Leicester Magistrates Court on 10 April 2019. A hi-fi and 4 speakers were removed from the flat
- No further noise nuisances were witnessed after equipment was seized in April 2019

2019 Statistics

- Received **2627** initial complaints about residential and commercial noise and pollution.
- Received **3996** calls to the service when the noise/pollution was occurring
- Witnessed **325** statutory noise/pollution nuisances.
- Served **210** informal warning letters
- Served **65** abatement notices/notice reminder letters
- Served **27** requests to attend Interview under caution
- Seized noise equipment from **9** properties
- Started legal proceedings against **2** properties for dog barking offences.

Data comparison

	2017	2018	2019
Initial noise and pollution complaints (domestic and commercial)	2834	2854	2627
Calls to the Monitoring Service when the noise was occurring (within and outside service hours)	4478	3461	3996
Number of statutory noise and pollution nuisances witnessed	376	307	325
Number of informal warning letters served	221	208	210
Number of abatement notices / notice reminder letters served	98	54	65
Number of Requests to attend formal interview under caution served	34	20	27
Number of seizures of noise equipment	7	7	9
Number of Legal Proceedings commenced	2	1	2

Any Questions?