

## WHAT IS NOISE?

Noise can be characterised as "*unwanted sound*" or "*sound that is loud, unpleasant or unexpected*" and that can eventually cause disturbance, impairment or damage to health.

## WHAT IS A NOISE NUISANCE?

Noise is generally regarded as a nuisance if it is so loud, so repeated, of such pitch or of such duration that it causes annoyance to people. It can be any one or a combination of these to constitute a nuisance

## TYPES OF NOISE

### Noise from Construction Works

There are no set times in law limiting the working hours on building sites, as such. However, there are guideline standard times adopted by the Council that apply to construction activity, and if work takes place outside of these hours, it can then be regarded as a source of noise nuisance, and investigated by the Council's EHOs.

The standard times for construction works in Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown are:

- **Monday to Friday:** 7 a.m to 7 p.m
- **Saturdays:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Sundays & Bank Holidays:** Works normally not permitted.

However, please note that these are guideline times only, and in certain circumstances it may be necessary for building works to take place outside of these hours. In addition these **guideline times do not apply to any kind of emergency works** carried out by the ESB, Bord Gais, Iarnród Eireann etc.

Construction working hours on a particular development may also be regulated by way of a condition attached to the planning permission and breaches in these cases are enforced by the Planning Enforcement Section of the Council. Contact Planning Enforcement at [planningenforcement@drlrcoco.ie](mailto:planningenforcement@drlrcoco.ie).

### Noise from plant operating at a commercial premises

The Council's EHOs deal with complaints regarding noise nuisance caused by plant noise, this can include extractor fans, refrigeration compressors, air handling units etc. In order to determine nuisance, measurements generally must be taken in the complainant's home both in the presence and the absence of the noise.

### Music noise from a public house / nightclub

The Council's EHOs investigate complaints regarding noise nuisance caused by the playing of amplified music at public houses / nightclubs. Generally this type of complaint arises when a licensed premises is playing music to an intrusive level, until late at night. A complainant, in this instance, will usually be requested to keep a written record of the noise nuisance as it occurs. See Appendix 1.

### **Noise arising from outdoor events and concerts including fun fairs**

Monitoring is usually carried out by the Council's EHOs at outdoor events.

### **Noise from security alarms**

The Council can deal with noise from an alarm if it is being repeatedly activated. A warning letter can be sent to the premises causing the nuisance but no access can be gained to the property to disable an activated alarm. Intruder alarm systems should be designed, installed and maintained in compliance with Irish Standard EN50131/1:2006. A nominated key-holder or neighbour should have access to the property in case of activation. See appendix 4 for guidelines on preventing noise nuisance from activated alarms.

### **Noise from Quarries**

The Council's EHOs deal with complaints regarding noise nuisance caused by quarries. Quarry working hours may also be regulated by way of a condition attached to the planning permission and breaches in these cases are enforced by the Planning Enforcement Section of the Council. Contact Planning Enforcement at [planningenforcement@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:planningenforcement@dlrcoco.ie).

### **Retail Deliveries**

There are no set times in law limiting the working hours of retail deliveries. The Council's EHOs investigate complaints regarding noise nuisance caused by retail deliveries if they are deemed to be excessive. A complainant, in this instance, will usually be requested to keep a written record of the noise nuisance as it occurs. See Appendix 1.

### **Waste Collection**

Under the Council's byelaws for the storage, presentation and collection of household and commercial waste using wheeled bins and plastic, a service provider shall not collect waste between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. without the prior written agreement of the environment department of the council. The Council investigates complaints regarding noise nuisance caused by waste collection. A complainant, in this instance, will usually be requested to keep a written record of the noise nuisance as it occurs. See Appendix 1.

### **Mobile Units / Casual Traders**

Trading hours may be set out in the casual trading licence and breaches in these cases are enforced by the Casual Trading section of the Council. Contact casual Trading at [environ@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:environ@dlrcoco.ie).

**NOTE:** This list is not exhaustive. The Council's EHOs will advise you if your complaint falls under our remit.