



Preventing nuisance from intruder alarms

Audible intruder alarms are widely used to deter unauthorised entry into homes and commercial premises. Unfortunately, they can develop faults and the persistent noise of an alarm can cause considerable disturbance and distress to your neighbours.

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The Law

If your intruder alarm sounds for an extended period of time, it could be considered a Statutory Nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, or deemed an annoyance under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. If the council decided that the alarm is causing such a problem, we will try to find a keyholder. If this is not possible, and the alarm is still causing a nuisance, we may take legal action in order to silence it. If we need to enter your property by force we will obtain a Magistrates' Warrant. The council has the power to recover any costs involved from the owner/occupier, to disable the alarm.

[Inform us of nuisance from intruder alarms \(/report-nuisance\)](#)

What can you do

To avoid problems before they happen, you should take the following steps:

- ensure the alarm is properly fitted with sensors in appropriate places
- if you fit it yourself, follow the manufacturer's guidelines
- make sure you, members of your family or staff or keyholders know how to switch off the alarm, and any backup device
- ensure the alarm is fitted with a cut out device, that will silence the alarm bell after a maximum of 20 minutes

- notify the council and police of at least two keyholders able to attend if called at any time
- if you employ a keyholder service company, available 24 hours a day, you can give their details

Please remember to keep us updated about any changes to the keyholder information. Make sure any borrowed keys are returned to the key holder.

Notify us of alarm installation (/notify-intruder-alarm)

Contact details

Environmental Health team

If you have an enquiry, [send a message to the Environmental Health team](#)

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