

# Noise in the Street



Under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (as amended by the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993), it is an offence for any person who operates or permits the operation of a loudspeaker (any electronic amplified device used to make a sound) in a street, subject to the following:

Between the hours of nine in the evening and eight the following morning, for any purpose;

a) At any other time, for the purpose of advertising any entertainment, trade or business.

Should Officers from this Department witness an offence under the above Act, the person responsible could be liable for prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

**There are exceptions to the above, these are:**

**Part a) exclusions:**

- Noise from emergency, utility and local authority vehicle, communicating with persons on a vessel to direct movement.
- Noise from public announcements made in connection with public transport or as part of a public telephone system.
- The use of a loudspeaker by a travelling showman on land being used for purposes of a pleasure fair is also excluded.
- Noise from a car stereo for entertainment or loudspeakers attached to a vehicle for communication with the driver/ passengers. Vehicle horns are also excluded so long as they are solely used for giving warning.

**Part b) exclusions:**

- Loudspeakers fixed to a vehicle selling perishable goods (e.g. ice cream vans/ chip vans) used solely to inform members of the public that the products is on sale and operated as not to give reasonable cause for annoyance to persons in the vicinity. However, the loudspeakers may only be used between 12 noon and 7pm.

***Please note; noise from car repairs, alarms or radios (when vehicles are stationary), parked refrigerator vehicles and roadwork equipment in the street could still cause a Statutory Nuisance. Further details can be found on the "Complaints about Noise" leaflet.***

## Q. What to do if suffering nuisance?

Should you observe anyone using a loudspeaker in a street in contravention to the above, you can report the following details to us at the address below.

- The street in which the loudspeaker was in use along with the date and time of incident.
- The vehicle make, model, colour and registration number.

This information along with your details will be required before any reports can be investigated.

## Q. How do I complain?

You can write, email or phone:

**Write:** Environmental Health, East Staffordshire Borough Council, The Maltsters, Wetmore Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1LS

**Email:** [ehsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk](mailto:ehsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk) **Phone:** 01283 508524 or 508578