



Light Pollution Nuisance Control

We can help and advise you over light pollution nuisance.

Sources of light pollution nuisance are likely to include:

- Domestic Security Lights
- Domestic Decorative Lights
- Commercial and Industrial Security Lights
- External Building Illumination (Floodlights)
- Light and Laser shows

The following sources are specifically excluded from this legislation, as they always need to be well lit:

- Transport Premises including: airports, harbours, railway premises, bus stations
- Goods Vehicle Operating Centres
- Public Service Vehicle Operating Centres
- Prisons
- Defence Premises
- Lighthouses

What you can do initially

There is a strong possibility that the person causing the nuisance is unaware that they are disturbing other people. We recommend that the first step you take is to speak to the person directly. However, it is important that you remain calm.

What we can do

If the nuisance persists our Environmental Health team can carry out a nuisance complaint investigation.

This is what is involved:

1. We receive the complaint and acknowledge it by letter, telephone or a visit.
2. We contact the alleged offender and advise them that a complaint has been made (but not by whom) and advise steps they should take to prevent a nuisance. This may include limiting times when lights are on, adjusting sensors that turn them on or reducing the power of bulbs.
3. We ask the complainant to complete and return detailed record sheets. These provide us with important evidence as to whether a nuisance is being caused and if there is any pattern or routine in its occurrence.
4. We will try to witness the nuisance in person, most likely on a pre-arranged visit at a time when the light is likely to cause most nuisance.
5. If the investigating officer has not yet established a nuisance, we send a formal letter to the alleged offender to inform them that complaints are continuing to be received.

6. Once a nuisance is witnessed by an officer, we can undertake enforcement action which is likely to include the service of a formal notice.
7. If the notice is not complied with, the person causing the nuisance may be prosecuted. There is a maximum fine of £5,000 in domestic cases and £20,000 for commercial and industrial premises.

Factors considered

In considering whether a Statutory Nuisance exists an Environmental Health Officer will consider the following factors:

- Other light sources in area
- What part of the complainant's property it affects
- Duration
- Time of day
- How often it occurs

Alternative action - Taking your own action

It may be that the Environmental Health Officer or Technical Officer is unable to witness the nuisance or is of the opinion that a statutory nuisance does not exist. In such cases it is still possible to complain directly to a magistrates court under section 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Clerk to the Justices can be contacted at:
Worcester Magistrates Court
Castle Street
Worcester
WR1 3Q2
Tel: 01562 514000

Contact: Environmental Protection Section, Environmental Services, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT
Telephone: 01386 565015 Fax: 01386 561826
Email: environmental.health@wychavon.gov.uk
www.wychavon.gov.uk/es

