



Burglar alarms

What is the problem with intruder alarms?

Your council has a duty to take reasonable steps to investigate all complaints about noise nuisance from residents. Burglar alarms should meet their legal obligations.

Intruder Alarms

A burglar alarm may be one of the best ways to protect your property but a badly fitted alarm could be a liability or even an open invitation to an intruder and a serious noise nuisance to your neighbour.

Legal Position

Noise from a continuous sounding alarm will (in most cases) constitute a "Statutory Noise Nuisance" under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. If the nuisance continues after the abatement notice is serviced, the council can take any necessary action to stop the nuisance. This action will include silencing the alarm from the outside of the house or if this is not possible from inside the house.

What will we do about ringing alarms?

Following a complaint we will:

- try to contact the owner or other key holder to arrange for the alarm to be turned off
- serve an Abatement Notice where ringing alarms are causing a Noise Nuisance
- take action to silence an alarm if ringing continues which may include having to break into the property
- seek to reclaim the costs of silencing alarms from the person responsible
- inform the police of any action taken

What can you do?

- have your alarm properly fitted and maintained by a company from a recognised Trade Association such as the National Approved Council for Security Systems (NACOSS)
- ensure your alarm has a 20 minute cut out device to stop it ringing
- arrange for someone to keep a key to your house and alarm to turn it off if you are away
- make sure your neighbours know where you or your nominated key holder can be contacted if the alarm is activated
- notify the Environmental Protection Group of the nominated key holder(s)

If you wish to discuss a noise problem, receive further information, or wish to make a complaint, please contact:

South Lakeland District Council

South Lakeland House

Lowther Street

Kendal

Cumbria

LA9 4DQ

Tel: 01539 733 333

Email: publicprotection@southlakeland.gov.uk

Website: www.southlakeland.gov.uk