

Reference Number: 101004568777

Response provided under: Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Request & Response:
Request in bold:
 Response in plain text:

We are compiling national data on noise nuisance complaints relating to auditory bird scaring devices (propane gas guns, banger ropes etc). I saw that some of the noise information is already available online, but the data are not specific enough.

If available, we'd like the source data as extracts from the Environmental Health Department's database, redacted to protect confidential information. We are particularly interested in the postcodes of the alleged noise nuisance of audible bird scaring devices.

Cover period: 1. January 2015 - 30 June 2019, broken down by year

**Auditory Bird Scaring Devices = ABDS
 National Farmer's Union = NFU**

GENERAL

1) Does the EHD log all noise nuisance complaints (phone,email,letter)? Yes

2) How many noise nuisance complaints (all causes) were received in cover period?

The total number of Noise Service Requests from 01.01.15 to 30.6.19 are 10582. The breakdown is :

**2015 - 2302
 2016 – 2310
 2017 – 2482
 2018 – 2410
 2019 up to 30.6.19 – 1078.**

3) How many of these related to ABSD?

The number of Bird Scarer Service Requests are – 118

**2015 – Nil
 2016 – 24
 2017 – 35
 2018 – 34
 2019 up to 30.6.19 – 25**

4) How many of those related to ABSD, resulted in an abatement notice being issued? - 0

NFU CODE

5) NFU Code of Practice specifies that farmers should register ABSD with the local council. How many guns were registered with the council during the cover period? - 0

6) NFU Code of Practice is a voluntary code, but Councils are allowed to issue bye-laws. Does the Council have a bye-law regarding the use of ABSD? - No

PROCESS

7) Does the EHD have an internal policy for the process of investigating noise nuisance by ABSD? – there is no specific policy

If yes, please supply a copy.

INVESTIGATION

8) How many times was the EHD unable to investigate / act on a complaint because the owner/operator of a gun could not be identified? - 0

DECISION MAKING

9) When deciding whether an ABSD constitutes statutory noise nuisance, does the council rely on noise monitoring data, or does it accept the subjective evidence by a EHO? - Both

10) If noise monitoring equipment is used, how many machines does the environmental Health Department have that are suitable for measuring noise emission from ABSD? 22

11) If noise monitoring equipment is used, which BS standard is applied?

We assess the noise nuisance from bird scarers against the subjective requirements of section 79 Environmental Protection Act 1990
The BS noise standard would be BS 7445-1, BS 7445-1 and BS 7445-1 (2003) Description and measurement of environmental noise. Covers both internal and external noise measurements.

TRAINING

12) How many Environmental Officers does the Environmental Health Department employ? There are 5 Environmental Health Officers and 7 Environmental Protection Officers (as this request is in regards to noise we have included the figures for officers that look after noise complaints only).

13) How many days Continuous Professional Development has the team received in relation to statutory noise nuisance? We do not hold this data

14) If the data exist, is it possible to break down outcomes of complaints into how many ended in

- a) informal discussion with offender only
- b) visit to the property & subjective assessment by EHO
- c) installation of noise monitoring
- d) noise monitoring found that no statutory noise nuisance exists
- e) noise monitoring found that statutory noise monitoring does exist
- f) resulted in abatement notice
- g) abatement notices contested

We do not hold this information

Information provided by: Neighbourhoods & Public Protection

Date of response: 13.08.19