



Audible Intruder Alarms

Voluntary Registration Scheme.

www.eastherts.gov.uk

BURGLAR ALARMS

Burglar alarms are a popular way of increasing the security for homes and businesses. Unfortunately each year the Council receive a number of complaints relating to the noise made by malfunctioning burglar alarms. Anyone who has a burglar alarm fitted to their home or business has a duty to ensure that it will not cause a nuisance to the residents in the locality.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY

The Council has a statutory duty to deal with any disturbance which it is satisfied is causing a statutory nuisance. The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives the Local Authority the powers to deal with alarms which are causing a likely annoyance or persistent and repeatedly sounding audible intruder alarms which may give rise to a nuisance.

WHAT HAPPENS IF COMPLAINTS ARE RECEIVED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY?

Once the Police are satisfied that there is no criminal activity taking place at the premises and the Local Authority are satisfied that the noise of the alarm is causing a statutory nuisance or annoyance the Council will take actions to silence the alarm. If key-holder details are available they will be contacted to disable the alarm. If no key-holders are registered and reasonable actions have been taken to try to contact the owner a notice may be served at the offending property, if this notice is not complied with further actions may be taken to silence the alarm. The costs incurred by the Local Authority during this process will be recharged to the owner/occupier of the premises.

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME

East Herts Council offers a voluntary registration scheme. Registering your alarm with the Council will provide contact names and telephone numbers for key-holders so that someone can be contacted if your alarm is reported to be causing a nuisance or annoyance. The aim of this is to notify the persons responsible for the alarm or their nominated key-holders when the alarm is sounding and request that they take suitable actions to ensure that the alarm is silenced without the need for any formal action. The Council will make arrangements to maintain a database of nominated key-holders. This database will be maintained in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The data will not be disseminated to any third parties without the prior consent of the key-holder and the responsible person. The Council will annually review the information held on these records for accuracy.

If you wish to register key-holder details please complete the form contained within this leaflet, further information is available from the contact details on the back of this document.

PREVENTING A NUISANCE

In addition to registering key-holder details there are several additional actions that can be taken to minimise the risk of your alarm malfunctioning and causing a potential nuisance these include:

- The alarm should be properly designed installed and maintained as far as is reasonably practicable to prevent false alarms.
- The alarm should be fitted by a competent alarm engineer who will be able to set the sensor sensitivity correctly and reduce false alarms.
- To avoid disturbance to the public, all burglar alarm systems must be fitted with an automatic cut out device. This should disconnect both the internal and external sounders, either a bell or buzzer, after a period of not more than 20 minutes following activation.
- The cut out device can be supplemented with a flashing light, which will continue to operate after the sounder has ceased. This will help alert the public and Police to the alarmed state of the property.
- All alarms should be regularly maintained by a suitably qualified alarm engineer in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure at least one of your nominated key-holders can respond within 20 minutes of being called.

AUDIBLE INTRUDER ALARM NOTIFICATION FORM

East Herts District Council

Audible Intruder Alarm

Notification of installation of a new alarm system.

Change of responsible person

Change of key holder details

(Please tick the appropriate box)

Premises at which the alarm is installed:

Address

.....

Person responsible for the alarm (normally the owner/occupier):

Name.....

.....

Address.....

.....

Tel. Home.....

Mobile.....

Nominated key-holder 1*

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel. Home.....

Mobile.....

Nominated key-holder 2

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel. Home.....

Mobile.....

Has an automatic cut-out device been fitted and is the cut-out device timed to stop ringing after a period of not more than 20 minutes yes/no (delete as appropriate).

* Note:

The nominated key-holder can be a registered alarm company as long as they have a reactive service.

Key-holders 1 & 2 should be people that can be contacted if there is a problem to re-set the alarm when the person responsible cannot be contacted. All keyholders should be aware of their responsibilities and should normally be able to attend the premises within 20 minutes of being notified of a problem.

Please note that in the event of an alarm causing a noise nuisance council officers will try to contact the person responsible and nominated key-holders. If it is not possible to contact them the council may have to take formal action to silence the alarm and subsequently recover its costs in doing so.

If you would like a translation of this document in another language, large print, Braille, audio, or electronic, please contact us:

Aby otrzymać ten dokument w języku polskim, należy skontaktować się telefonicznie z działem *Communications* przy Urzędzie Rady Miejskiej East Herts pod numerem: (01279) 655261 lub pocztą elektroniczną z: communications@eastherts.gov.uk

Se gostaria de receber esta informação em Português, queira contactar o departamento de Comunicações do East Herts Council através do número (01279) 655261 ou por e-mail para: communications@eastherts.gov.uk

Phone: 01279 655261

Email: environmental.health@eastherts.gov.uk

Fax: 01992 531433

Text: 0773 433 4504

Visit: www.eastherts.gov.uk

Write to: East Herts Council
Environmental Health
Wallfields, Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8EQ

We will provide signers, lipspeakers and deaf blind interpreters by appointment

East Herts Council - improving the quality of people's lives and preserving all that is best in East Herts