

NAME	Home Address (inc Postcode & Tel No.)	Business Address (inc Postcode & Tel No.)
	Telephone	Telephone

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4. Alarm Owner (if different from 2; eg Security Company)

Name

Address (including Postcode)

.....

Telephone

5. Alarm Maintenance Contractor (if different from 4)

Name

Address (including Postcode)

.....

Telephone

6. Response Time (see note iv)

I should like to discuss with you the possibility of agreeing a response time of minutes. My reasons for wishing an agreed response time of more than 20 minutes are attached.

Signed Alarm holder

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

We agree that the response time to be adhered to in silencing the audible alarm installed at:

.....

should be minutes

Signed for
South Northamptonshire Council

Date

Remember if the alarm at your premises is ringing persistently it advertises the fact that no one is in and no one has been informed of the situation.

Contacting the Environmental Protection Team

If you have a general enquiry regarding burglar alarms or noise nuisance please contact the Environmental Protection Team on 01327 322295 between 8:45 am and 5:15 pm Monday to Thursday or 8:45 am and 4:45 pm on Friday.

**South Northamptonshire Council
Environment Division
Springfields
Towcester
Northamptonshire
NN12 6AE**

Telephone: 01327 322323

Fax: 01327 359946

E-mail:

environmental.protection@southnorthants.gov.uk

This leaflet is also available on audiotape, in large print or braille format

Please keep the Council updated with any changes of the details submitted on the form



Environmental Protection Team

Nuisance Issues



Burglar Alarms

Leaflet 4
May 2005

BURGLAR ALARMS

Burglar alarms are a popular way of providing security for homes and businesses. Each year the Council and the Police receive a number of complaints relating to noise from burglar alarms.

Anyone who has a burglar alarm fitted to their home or their business has a duty to ensure that it will not cause a nuisance to residents in the locality.

What does the law say?

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the Council has a statutory duty to deal with any disturbance which it is satisfied is causing a statutory nuisance. The persistent or repeated sounding of an audible intruder alarm may give rise to a nuisance if it prevents people in the vicinity from using or enjoying their own property i.e. if it prevents them from sleeping or is very intrusive inside their premises. If this occurs and the alarm is not turned off then the Council can take further action.

What happens when the Council gets involved?

Once the Police are satisfied that there is no criminal activity taking place at the premises and the Council is satisfied that the noise of the alarm is causing a statutory nuisance an application will be made to the Duty Magistrate for a warrant to enter the premises. The services of a locksmith and an alarm engineer will be engaged by the Council and they will enable access to the premises and reset the

alarm. The Council will ensure that upon leaving, the premises are left in a secure condition. This whole process may take up to four hours.

Who has to pay?

The costs incurred by the Council during this process will be recharged to the occupier of the premises. This can be very expensive and will include the Council's costs, the costs of the locksmith and the costs of the alarm engineer.

What can I do to make sure that my alarm doesn't cause a nuisance?

Initially you should ensure that any alarm fitted to your premises is properly designed. The British Standard for intruder alarms is 4737 and your alarm should comply with this.

Make sure that your alarm is fitted by a competent alarm engineer who will be able to set the sensors to the appropriate sensitivity and so prevent the alarm sounding unnecessarily.

Have your alarm maintained regularly by an alarm engineer, ideally on a contract so you don't forget.

Make sure your alarm is fitted with a cut off device to deactivate the siren or bell after 20 minutes.

Register your alarm with the Council and provide them with contact names and telephone numbers of key holders so that someone can be contacted if your alarm sounds. Attached is a form for this purpose.

Ensure at least one of your nominated key holders can respond within 20 minutes of being called out.

Please complete and pass the form to the Council.



AUDIBLE INTRUDER ALARMS

NOTIFICATION TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY OF INSTALLATION OF A NEW ALARM SYSTEM OR OF A CHANGE OF ALARM-HOLDER

Notes

- i) The Control of Noise (Code of Practice on Noise from Audible Intruder Alarms) Order 1981 (Statutory Instrument 1981 No 1829) gives guidance on methods for reducing the incidents of nuisance caused by the ringing of alarms. If you permit your alarm to ring unnecessarily, action may be taken against you under Section 80 or 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It is therefore in your own interest to adhere to the procedures set out in the Code of Practice, which can be purchased at Stationary Office book shops or through booksellers.
- ii) Paragraph 5 of the Code of Practice states that the alarm-holder should, within 48 hours of installing a new alarm system or of overtaking an existing one, notify the local police of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least 2 key-holders. The Code also states that the alarm-holders should, at the same time notify the Local Environmental Health Authority that the alarm has been newly installed or that he has taken over responsibility for an existing system and that he should tell the Local Authority the address of the Police Station to which notification of key-holders has been made.
- iii) This form may be used to notify the Local Environmental Health Authority of an existing installation or that a new installation has been made or an existing one taken over.
- iv) Section 6 of this form should only be completed if you wish to ask the Local Authority to agree to a response time of more than 20 minutes (see paragraph 6.2 and 6.3 of the Code of Practice).

To the Environment Division of South Northamptonshire Council

As the person responsible for the audible alarm system installed at the premises indicated at (2) below, I wish to notify you that the names and addresses of my nominated key holders have been notified to Police Station and that I have signed an undertaking that one or the other of my nominated key-holders will always turn out and will take responsibility for silencing the alarm within 20 minutes or such longer period as may be agreed with you in writing, from receiving notification that the alarm is ringing.

Signature Date.....

1. Nature of Installation (please tick the appropriate box)

New installation Existing installation

2. Premises at which the alarm is installed

Address (including postcode)
.....
.....

Occupants Names

3. Nominated Key-holders for the alarm (first one should be person responsible for alarm)

NAME	Home Address (inc Postcode & Tel No.)	Business Address (inc Postcode & Tel No.)
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