

Community Noise



Many argue that our towns, cities, parks, shops, restaurants and hospitals are noisier than ever before. It need not be like this. Existing or new legislation should be used to:

Noisy Neighbourhoods

- clampdown on 'boom' cars, noisy motor bikes and stereo systems blaring from cars
- restrict the playing of amplified music on streets where people work, shop or live
- enforce by-laws that forbid the playing of music in public parks
- limit the number of music events allowed in any one park or open space in a year; impose and enforce tough conditions when they are permitted
- close down premises which continue to present a noise problem in a community
- restrict fireworks to a limited number of public displays each year; ban the sale of fireworks to the public; promote the use of laser display
- bring in tight restrictions on the use of leaf blowers

Noisy Trains, Buses and Tubes



- cut the number of announcements to the barest minimum: those required by law to assist visually impaired people and those essential for safety and disruption
- reduce the loudness of the announcements;
- get tough with people playing music on public transport

Piped Music

Regulate piped music and televisions in hospitals and nursing homes. No patient should unwillingly be subjected to piped music or televisions in hospitals or nursing homes. Separate television rooms and headphones for people who want to listen to television or music in wards should be the norm, and also for outpatients.

Workers in shops, restaurants and elsewhere are often bombarded by piped music that is sometimes loud and often very repetitive. Such inescapable forced music is particularly stress-inducing. Legislation is needed to give workers the right not to have to listen to it in the same way that non-smokers have gained the right not to have to breathe others' smoke.

Provide tax-breaks for 'muzac-free' shopping malls. Shopping malls are in many ways like a public street. Particularly in many of the UK's smaller towns and cities, it is difficult to get what you want without visiting the mall meaning you have little choice but to listen to the music.



Written by John Stewart – johnstewart2@btconnect.com;
Published by the UK Noise Association: <http://www.uknoiseassociation.com/>
Blog site: <https://www.cutnoise2day.co.uk/> Twitter @cutnoise
April 2022