

## Communication is Vital

If you are affected by artificial light that is used by a neighbouring property or business, it may be beneficial to approach your neighbour and politely explain that you are being troubled by the light in use. This may be a way to quickly resolve the problem. If you feel like you are unable to do this, you may want to consider mediation. This involves an independent third party communicating with both sides to reach an agreement or compromise.



## Further Information

If you would like to register a complaint or would like further information about Statutory Nuisance from light, please contact the Environmental Protection Team:

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council,  
**Environmental Protection Team,**  
Kirkleatham Street,  
Redcar,  
Yorkshire,  
TS10 1RT  
01642 774774

[environmental.protection@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.protection@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

[www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)



**Environmental  
Protection Team**

## **Artificial Light Nuisance**



## **Guidance for the use of Artificial Light**

# Light Nuisance

Artificial light is essential and we use it for many different reasons including:

- To light streets and roads at night
- As a security measure to protect homes and businesses
- To increase the hours we can play sports outdoors
- Advertising and display lighting



Over recent years, the need for extra security has led to more lighting of domestic and business premises. However, artificial light in the wrong place at the wrong time can be intrusive and can affect people's enjoyment of their homes. If badly positioned,

designed or adjusted this can have an adverse effect on other nearby premises.

## The Law

The Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005, places a duty on the Council to investigate complaints of nuisance caused by some artificial light sources. If light is found to be causing a Statutory Nuisance by affecting the health or materially interfering with the use and enjoyment of a neighbouring property then a legal notice will be served on the person responsible, requiring the abatement of the nuisance. Failure to comply with the notice can result in a criminal prosecution.



## Exemptions

There are a number of sources of lighting for which action cannot be taken under this legislation, including harbours, bus stations and associated facilities, lighthouses, prisons and military installations. In addition formal action may not be possible in respect of street lighting. Further advice about this can be sought from the Environmental Protection Team.



## Statutory Nuisance from Artificial Light

A light nuisance is a significant and unreasonable emission of artificial light that affects someone in a significant and unreasonable way. It is more than 'annoyance' and much more than the mere awareness of a light.

There is no fixed level of light which constitutes a statutory nuisance; individual circumstances differ and each case has to be judged on its own merits. However, a light causing an alleged nuisance must affect you in your home. If the light can be reduced to a reasonable level using standard curtains or blinds, it is unlikely that the light would be classed as a Statutory Nuisance.

## How can Light Nuisance be Reduced or Avoided?

Before going to the expense and effort of installing lighting, a few simple questions should be asked:

- Is the lighting necessary?

- Could safety or security be achieved by other measures, such as segregation or screening of an area?
- Do the lights have to be on all night?
- If lighting is the best option then only the right amount of light for the task should be installed. Lighting will then only become a problem if it is poorly designed or incorrectly installed.



If lighting is necessary, the extent of nuisance from artificial lighting can be dramatically reduced by a number of simple inexpensive measures:

- For domestic security lights a 150W lamp is adequate. High power (300/500W) lamps create too much glare reducing security. For an all-night porch light a 9W lamp is more than adequate in most situations.
- Make sure that lights are correctly adjusted so that they only illuminate the surface intended and do not throw light onto neighbouring property.
- Security lights should be correctly adjusted so that they only pick up the movement of persons in the area intended and not beyond.
- To reduce the effects of glare main beam angles of all lights should be below 70 degrees.
- Direct light downwards. If up lighting has to be used then install shields above the lamp to reduce the amount of wasted upward light.