

SmokeFree Coventry

Achieving a Smoke Free Workplace

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www.smokefreecoventry.org.uk

Noise Nuisance Issues

The implementation of a smoking ban in enclosed public places **may** have a potential knock-on effect with regard to noise nuisance. This will be especially likely where licensed premises such as pubs, bars and clubs are located close to residential properties.

Premise license holders are responsible for noise emanating from their premise, and should control noise to avoid complaints from neighbouring residents.

With a restriction on smoking in enclosed public spaces, premise owners will have the option of providing outdoor smoking areas, such as gardens or patio areas of a premise. This is likely to happen throughout the time that the premise is licensed, which may be very late at night. The volume of people congregating could be quite large, and the impact of people noise such as talking on local residents could be significant.

Should premise license holders intend to use garden or patio areas on their premise for an outdoor smoking area, they should ensure that their premise license allows them to use this area of the premise at the hours required. This is especially important for use late at night.



Some suggestions for licensees with the aim of reducing noise disturbance are included below:

- A licensee may wish to create a designated 'smoking' area on their premises.
 - > Any designated smoking area should be as far away as possible from the nearest residential property so as to reduce noise disturbance to local residents.
 - > Additionally, by ensuring the smoking area is as far away from residential properties as possible, this will reduce the potential for smoke to enter residential properties, if for example a large crowd of people were smoking very close to a residential property with an open window.

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- Signs can be placed around a premises asking people to be quiet and respect neighbours whilst smoking outside on or off the premises.
- Licensees should ensure that external doors to smoking areas or external doors to areas where people go to smoke are kept closed to contain crowd noise and noise from entertainment within the premises.
- If a licensee were to create a smoking area with a canopy to provide shelter for smokers they should note that a canopy would be unlikely to contain the crowd noise. Consideration should still be given to the location of the area.
- Licensees may wish to supervise smokers to ensure they do not cause a disturbance to local residents. In addition the supervisor could be responsible for managing the number of people in a smoking area to help reduce noise disturbance.

Environmental Health can give advice to licensees on noise control both from customers and entertainment noise. Please contact us to arrange an appointment to visit your premise.

If you require any further information or advice please contact:

Environmental Protection,
Environmental Health,
Coventry City Council,
Broadgate House,
Broadgate,
Coventry CV1 1NH.

Tel: 0500 834 3333.