

## **Dealing with Nuisance Neighbours: A Guide for UK Leaseholders**

Living in a shared building or close community can sometimes mean dealing with challenging situations involving neighbours. Whether it's noise, disruptive behaviour, or other forms of nuisance, this guide provides practical steps and advice to help you address these issues.

### **Step 1: Understand the Situation**

Before taking any action, it's important to assess the situation:

- **Is it a one-off or recurring issue?** For example, a single noisy party may not require action, but frequent disturbances or consistent nuisance might.
- **What kind of behaviour is occurring?** Noise, harassment, or other disruptive behaviours may require different approaches.
- **When is it happening?** Late-night disturbances or repeated issues during unsociable hours are more likely to require intervention.
- **If it's noise related, is it excessive?** Everyday sounds like footsteps or conversations may not constitute a complaint, but loud music or drilling late at night might.

### **Step 2: Talk to Your Neighbour**

Sometimes, a friendly conversation can resolve the issue:

- **Approach calmly:** Choose a suitable time to talk when you're not upset.
- **Explain the impact:** Politely let them know how their behaviour is affecting you. They may not be aware of the disturbance they're causing.

### **Step 3: Keep a Record**

If the nuisance persists, start keeping a detailed record:

- **Log the dates and times** of the incidents.

- **Note the type of behaviour** and how long it lasted.
- **Take photos or videos** (if appropriate) as evidence, but ensure this does not infringe on anyone's privacy.

#### **Step 4: Escalate the Issue**

If the problem continues despite your efforts, you can escalate it:

- **Contact your local authority:** Reach out to the Environmental Health Department to report a noise or nuisance issue. They have the power to investigate and take action if the behaviour is deemed excessive.
- **Call 101 (non-emergency police line):** If the nuisance includes antisocial behaviour, harassment, or anything that feels threatening, you can report it to the police for further assistance.

#### **Step 5: Know Your Rights**

As a leaseholder, you have rights and responsibilities:

- **Check your lease agreement:** It may include clauses about acceptable behaviour and noise levels.
- **Understand local regulations:** Many councils have rules against antisocial behaviour and noise nuisances.