

Title of Report:	Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland 2021 - 2022
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	5th April 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Delivery of statutory responsibilities
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the recent publication of Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland 2021-2022 by the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 DAERA publishes noise complaint statistics to inform central government, district councils, the general public and any other interested parties as to the number and nature of noise complaints received each year by district councils across Northern Ireland. The report for 2021-2022 can be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/noise-complaint-statistics-northern-ireland-2021-2022>
- 2.2 The DAERA report analysed noise complaint data supplied by all 11 councils between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022. During this period 13,261 noise complaints were received in Northern Ireland of which 596 (4.5%) were received by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council compared to 533 in the previous year.
- 2.3 During 2021-22 the total number of noise complaints received across Northern Ireland increased by 26.4% from the previous year and represents the highest number of complaints received since records began in 2003/04.
- 2.4 Analysis of the data reveals that domestic noise accounted for 76% of all complaints in 2021-22, followed by complaints relating to commercial and leisure (11%), noise in the street (5%), construction (4%) and transport (2%).
- 2.5 During 2021-2022 there was a 63.8% decrease in the number of noise abatement notices served by Councils (344 compared to 210 served in 2020/21). No prosecutions took place during 2021/22, compared to two prosecutions in 2020/21 and four in 2019/20.
- 2.6 The information in this report is an important indicator of the increasing public awareness of noise issues and the effectiveness of current noise controls. However, the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the reporting of this year's statistics should be borne in mind.
- 2.7 The statistics provided by district councils enable the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to target policy development, such as through the application of the powers in the Noise Act 1996 following the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 in April 2012.
- 2.8 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Environmental Health team continues to participate in the Nightsafe initiative in partnership with NIHE, Ulster University, PSNI and the local community. Council Officers and the PSNI carry joint patrols of residential student areas in Portrush/Portstewart between

the hours of 9pm and 4am. These patrols are undertaken during the University's academic semester and focus on issues such as noise, antisocial behaviour, littering, drinking in public places, personal and property safety.

- 2.9 Council subscribes to the Noise App which is free to download and enables real time audio recordings to be submitted directly to Councils Environmental Health team as part of ongoing noise complaint investigations. Further information on the Noise App can be found on Council's website at <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/health-and-built-environment/environment-health-and-well-being/environmental-protection/noise-control/recording-noise-nuisance-the-noise-app>

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.