

## Intruder Alarm Systems - Noise Nuisance Prevention Guidelines

Intruder alarm systems are an effective and often essential means of protecting property and deterring crime.

**However recurring or continuous false alarms not only reduce the effectiveness of the intruder alarm system, they can also cause noise nuisance and disturbance.**

### Prevention

The best way to avoid needless disturbance to the public from audible intruder alarms is by preventing false alarms:

- The system should be properly designed, installed and maintained in good order, and equipment which has proved unreliable or ineffective should be replaced.
- The intruder alarm system should be designed, installed and maintained in compliance with **Irish Standard EN50131/1:2006**.
- In accordance with the standard, the external audible alarm should have a maximum duration of **15 minutes** and a minimum duration of **90 seconds** from activation of the system. This requirement shall generally not apply to internal audible alarms unless the noise generated by such alarms can cause distress to the occupants of the building or adjacent buildings. A cut out device can be supplemented with a flashing light which should have a minimum duration of 60 minutes.

### Keyholders

- At least 2 keyholders should be nominated and should be well versed in operating and silencing the alarm. The householder / property owner, or a security firm, can be nominated as keyholders. **The response time of the keyholder should not exceed 60 minutes**. The nominated keyholders should be easily contacted by phone.
- Where the alarm system is not connected to a monitoring centre e.g. eircom or a security firm, it is recommended that the name and contact telephone number of the keyholders should be made known to a trusted neighbour(s) who may be affected by continuous sounding of the alarm if activated.
- Failure of a keyholder to respond to an activated audible intruder alarm within 60 minutes will be relevant to any consideration of whether a noise nuisance has occurred in any particular case of prolonged or recurring sounding of an alarm system.

**Note:** In line with the Irish Standard for Intruder Alarm Systems it is recommended that before installing or altering an alarm system the prospective subscriber should consult their insurer and the Garda Crime Prevention Officer because their experience may be useful in resolving any problems that may arise.