

Protocol for Antisocial Behaviour and Noise Nuisance

1. Introduction

This protocol gives specific information about student discipline in relation to antisocial behaviour and noise nuisance.

The protocol should be read in conjunction with the [Student Discipline Procedure \(non-academic\)](#) and [Student Disciplinary Policy](#). If you are the subject of disciplinary proceedings in this area (either as The Student Reporter or The Student Responder), we advise you to read this protocol carefully and familiarise yourself with its contents.

The purpose of this document is:

- To outline the University's expectations around antisocial behaviour and noise nuisance;
- To explain how the University responds to reports of behaviour covered under this protocol;
- To show how reports of this nature will be specifically investigated and managed under its civil [Student Discipline Procedure](#).

2. Key Principles

Newcastle University is committed to developing a culture that is positive, inclusive and supportive, to which all staff and students contribute and within which all can reach their full potential. This commitment includes playing an active role in the community and an expectation that students show consideration for those living nearby.

All Newcastle University students are responsible for their own behaviour and its impact on others. Students are also expected to bear some responsibility for the behaviour of those they invite to their property. The University's [Student Charter: Rights and Responsibilities](#) sets out the standards of conduct the University expects of students in order to ensure a safe, respectful and supportive environment for all members of the University community.

Any report of antisocial behaviour or noise nuisance, whether on University premises or in the community, will be treated seriously and anyone found to have behaved unacceptably will be subject to investigation in line with the [Student Discipline Policy](#).

Any event or activity that could reasonably be perceived as involving improper coercion or manipulation, resulting in a risk of physical or mental detriment to any person, is banned by the University and Newcastle University Students' Union (NUSU). Where appropriate, the University will investigate incidents in accordance with the [Protocol for Dangerous Behaviours at Organised Student Socials \(including dangerous initiations\)](#)

See: [Appendix 1: Examples of misconduct and likely sanctions](#)

3. Scope

This protocol will be used to investigate all instances of antisocial behaviour and noise nuisance reported to the University. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Noise disturbances, including loud music and bass, loud voices, banging doors, footfall, taxis, shouting, screaming, disruptive house parties or gatherings (including behaviour exhibited by non-tenants attending your property)
- Waste and recycling mismanagement;
- Damage to local community or property.

Reports of behaviour which falls within the remit of this protocol may be received from other students, local residents, or external services (e.g., Northumbria Police).

4. Investigation Process

Where misconduct that falls within the scope of this protocol has been reported to the University, and the report specifies a named household, Newcastle University students at that address will be sent details of the complaint and a Level 2 disciplinary investigation will commence, as outlined in the [Student Disciplinary Procedure \(non-academic\)](#). A Disciplinary Case Officer will be appointed to investigate the case and the outcome will be determined by the Academic Registrar after consideration of all the available evidence. Students are always afforded the opportunity to present their version of events before a case is concluded. The Academic Registrar will determine, on the balance of probabilities, whether misconduct has occurred and sanctions, including fines, could be issued.

5. Sanctions

5.1. Where external services ARE NOT involved

Where it is determined that, on the balance of probabilities, a disturbance has occurred, and depending on the level of disturbance, the Student Responder(s) involved would usually be issued with a caution. A caution constitutes advice and guidance on future conduct, together with a record that the advice has been given. Where it is determined that serious or repeated disturbances have occurred, depending on the nature and volume of the complaints received, a warning, final warning and/or a disciplinary fine may be imposed.

5.2. Where external services ARE involved

Where a minor disturbance has been witnessed by an officer of the Police or Council, it is possible that the matter will be concluded with verbal advice given on the night. These cases are not reported to the University but the incident will be investigated if a related complaint is received. However, in cases where the external services determine that a disturbance has occurred and that verbal advice would not be an appropriate conclusion to the case, or where verbal advice has previously been given, the Council are likely to take action and the University will be informed of the address involved.

The external services are likely to take more severe action, where a significant disturbance is caused to the community, or there are aggravating factors, or where a household has been involved in repeated witnessed disturbances.

Actions available to the Council include:

- First warning letter
- Community Protection Notice Warning (CPNW)
- Community Protection Notice (CPN)
- S80 Abatement Order (Environmental Protection Act 1990)
- Breach of CPN or S80

Please note:

- Newcastle City Council does not necessarily issue the above warnings incrementally, e.g., a CPNW can be issued following a first witnessed disturbance.

- There are no set “acceptable” times for noise disturbance, for example before 11pm. It is a statutory nuisance at any time, day or night.
- The University publishes advice on Community Living. You can also seek advice from the [Student Advice Centre](#) or support from the [Student Health and Wellbeing Service](#)
- Information about your legal rights can be found at [Newcastle University Students' Union](#).

Please see [Appendix 1](#) for a list of Council actions and likely University sanctions.

6. Council and Police action

The Council and Police have their own procedures for addressing noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour by students. Further information is available on the following pages:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/statutory-nuisances-how-councils-deal-with-complaints>
- <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/environment-and-waste/environmental-health-andpollution/noise/noise-nuisance>
- <https://envirocallservice.newcastle.gov.uk/noise>
- <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/advice-and-info/neighbourhood-issues/anti-social-behaviour-asb/>

7. Appeals

The Student Responder and Student Reporter (where applicable) have the right to appeal against any decision, instruction or sanction imposed as a result of the investigation. If you wish to submit an appeal, you should follow the appeals process as set out in the [Student Discipline Procedure \(Student Responder\)](#).

8. Confidentiality

The University does not disclose the identity of a resident who makes a report about a student household. Similarly, the University does not disclose the details of its students to complainants. The University will only confirm that if there any Newcastle University students residing at the property they will be contacted in accordance with the Student Discipline Procedure. The University also normally takes this approach when investigating a complaint made by one of its students about a household where Newcastle University students are residing.

Appendix 1: Council action and indicative University sanctions

Council action	Indicative University sanction(s)
First warning issued by City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warning, and - £30 individual fine
CPNW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warning/Final Warning, and - £40-80 individual fine
CPN/S.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning/Final Warning, and • £80-100 individual fine • Referral to Student Disciplinary Committee for significance disturbance, aggravating factors, or repeat offences
Breach of CPN/S.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to Student Disciplinary Committee.

Please note:

- If a student has previously received cautions or warnings for antisocial behaviour or noise nuisance, they are likely to receive sanctions in excess of those suggested in the above table.
- Any monies raised from fines issued in accordance with this protocol will normally be used for the education of students and the promotion of activities to combat antisocial behaviour.