



#### Filming Outside of Social Hours in Residential & Commercial Areas

There are various permissions and considerations in order to film outside of social hours in residential and commercial areas in the City of Liverpool.

Unsocial hours or 'night filming' refers to any filming activities which take place between 22:00hrs and 0800hrs.

The key to successful working outside social hours is effective consultation with those people affected by the work. Therefore when considering night filming in residential & commercial areas it is essential to consult with local residents and businesses in the planning process (please refer to Liverpool City Council's Code of Practice for Filming 'Residents & Businesses' section page 7 for full details) and adequate time must be allowed for this.

Residents who have legitimate objections can result in your application being declined. In addition residents and traders who are left inconvenienced and disgruntled following a shoot may result in an area becoming difficult to film in the future.

Depending on the nature of filming and/or location LCC may require a deposit to ensure and safeguard against noise and nuisance, reinstatement works, cleansing, damage or staff costs to supervise or assist any other unforeseen when filming takes place in residential and business areas.

Therefore in all instances Liverpool City Council (LCC) via the Liverpool Film Office (LFO) must be fully briefed and informed in advance working to the following guidelines and best practice:

- Any activity outside of social hours, including filming, is subject to the Environmental Protection Act (1990) regarding noise and nuisance. A legitimate complaint about noise or nuisance from a resident to LCC can result in the termination of the shoot and confiscation of equipment or withdrawal of the filming permit. Therefore it is advisable to shoot all scenes requiring noise above conversational level before 22:00 hrs.
- Night shoots in residential areas should be finished and de-rigged by no later than 23:00hrs, unless prior permission has been granted by LCC and the residents have been consulted and no objections have been received
- Noise should be kept to a minimum
- All options should be explored to keep noise from generators to a minimum including baffling and the use of silent generators
- In instances where de-rigging of noisy equipment or heavy vehicles cannot be removed silently at the end of filming they must be left 'in situ' and attend overnight by security. Should this happen the LFO must be informed
- Technical vehicles must be parked in sensible locations which will not disturb residents
- All crew should use covert kits with their 'walkie talkies'
- Earplugs should be made available to residents & traders if required
- Black out material should be made available to residents if required and have staff available to assist those residents that are not able to put up or take down the blackout material

## A-Z Code of Practice for Filming In Liverpool

### Requesting Approval for filming outside of Social Hours

In order to comply with the Control of Pollution Act 1974, where a Production Company identifies a need to work outside normal hours they should liaise as soon as possible with LCC via the LFO who will in turn liaise with LCC's Environmental Protection Unit to discuss the request. Before approval can be given the following information must be provided via a method statement:

- Name of Location
- Explanation for out of hours working
- Duration
- Location of noise sensitive premises affected
- Details of proposed consultation with occupiers of noise sensitive premises
- Working methods
- Mitigation measures to minimise noise

### Noise Pollution

The guidance notes below are taken from those prepared by the Public Protection Division to assist contractors and developers in understanding the restrictions which apply to construction work to protect residents and businesses from high noise levels. However they act as a good guidance for production companies wishing to film at night.

### Best Practicable Means

Production Companies should ensure that the best practicable means are employed to minimise noise. British Standard 5228:Part1:1997 is approved as a code of practice for basic information and procedures for noise and vibration control.

Noise limits which should not be exceeded outside noise sensitive premises (i.e. façade levels) are as follows (adapted from Department of the Environment Advisory Leaflet AL72 and the World Health Organisation's 'Guidelines for Community Noise'):

Environment	Critical health effect	Sound level Leq, dB(A)	Time
Dwellings/offices	Speech intelligibility	75	0700-1900
Schools	Speech intelligibility	65	During class
Dwellings	Speech intelligibility	65	1900-2300
Dwellings	Speech intelligibility	45*	2300-0700

\* or equal to ambient noise levels if these are higher than 45dB(A)

### Control of Pollution Act 1974

The above legislation gives the local authority power to serve a notice under section 60 imposing requirements as to the way in which works are to be carried out. This may specify plant to be used, hours to be worked and noise levels to be achieved.

Section 61 enables anyone who intends to carry out works to apply to the local authority for a consent. An application for a consent must contain particulars of the works, the method by which they are to be carried out and the steps proposed to be taken to minimise noise.