

Brent JSNA
2019/2020

Noise & Nuisance



NHS

Brent

Clinical Commissioning Group

Summary

Noise is unwanted sound that may be considered a nuisance by those affected but may not qualify as actionable noise nuisance to the local authority. Adverse effects to human health from exposure to noise are well documented, and include: hypertension, annoyance, sleep disturbance, ischemic heart disease, hearing loss and tinnitus.

Statutory noise nuisance is noise so severe it demands intervention and quite possibly a legal prohibition. Local authorities have a duty to investigate and deal with complaints of statutory noise nuisance and noise incidents considered under various legal provisions, relating to: public nuisance, community protection, construction sites, and noise in the workplace. The applicable enforcement legislation is:

- **Environmental Protection Act 1990**
- **Noise Act 1996**
- **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**
- **Licensing Act 2003**
- **Control of Pollution Act 1974**
- **The Control of Noise at Work regulations 2005**

Non-actionable noise complaints typically report ordinary domestic noise occurring in dwellings with poor sound insulation such as converted properties and maisonettes constructed before Building Regulations incorporated sound insulation as a regulatory requirement. Walking, stamping, children playing, toilets flushing, moving furniture and dropping objects are all examples of non-actionable noise complaints.

Music noise and construction noise represent the most significant noise sources resulting in complaints to Brent Council's Nuisance Control Team. Following a service redesign in March 2019, we: provide a reactive noise service during weekday office hours and between 6pm and 2am Friday to Sunday; filter out non-actionable noise complaints; offer the Brent Noise App reporting and recording software; work alongside the Community Protection Team; prompt housing providers to consider appropriate tenancy management interventions for tenancy noise incidents.

We act as statutory consultee to the Planning Team in reviewing and commenting on development proposals to ensure noise does not adversely affect existing and future residents. We consider noise criteria contained with relevant British Standards, for example: **BS8233:2014 'Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings'** and **BS4142:2014 'Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound'**.

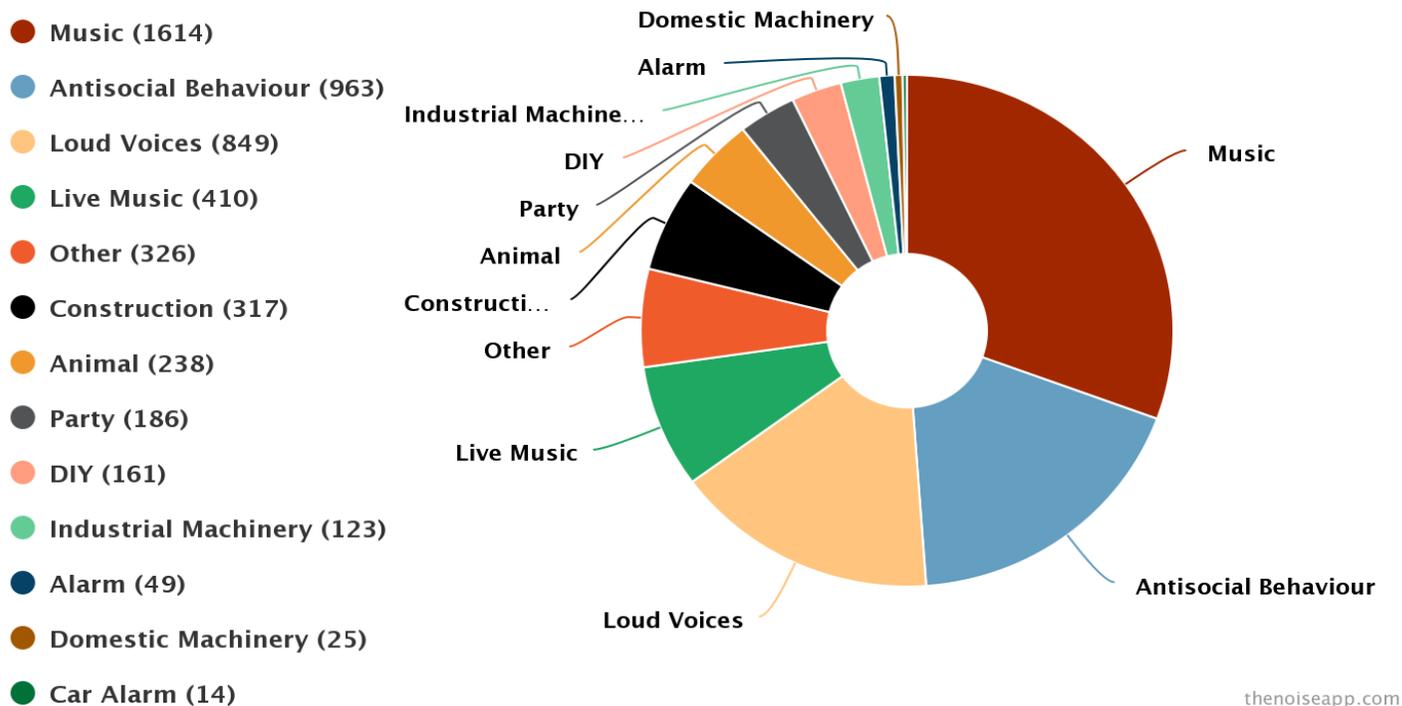
Under the **Licensing Act 2003**, we are a Responsible Authority with extensive powers governing public nuisance from licensed premises and temporary events featuring regulated entertainment. We process applications under the **Control of Pollution Act 1974** from projects seeking local authority consent to noisy engineering and construction works on road and rail infrastructure during noise sensitive hours.

Brent Noise App – reports per noise source

Reports per noise source since June 2018 via Brent Noise App

The Brent Noise App was introduced in June 2018, enabling residents to report and record noise incidents in real time. Music and Live Music represents the most significant reported noise source that is actionable as statutory noise nuisance.

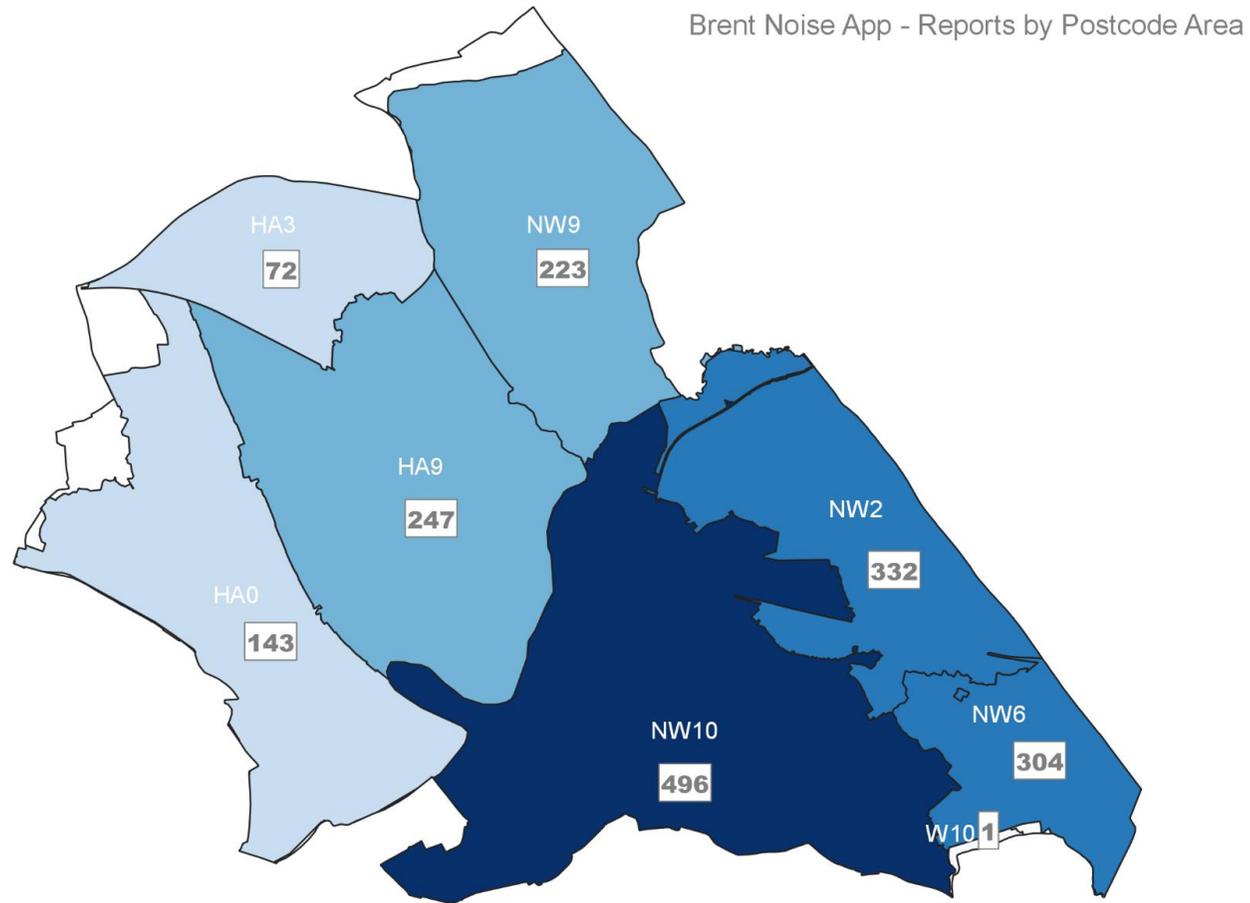
Loud voices and Antisocial Behaviour are typically non-actionable as statutory noise nuisance but may require a community protection or landlord intervention under the terms of tenancy agreement.



thenoiseapp.com

Brent Noise App – noise source by postcode

Reports per noise source by postcode since introducing the Brent Noise App in June 2018

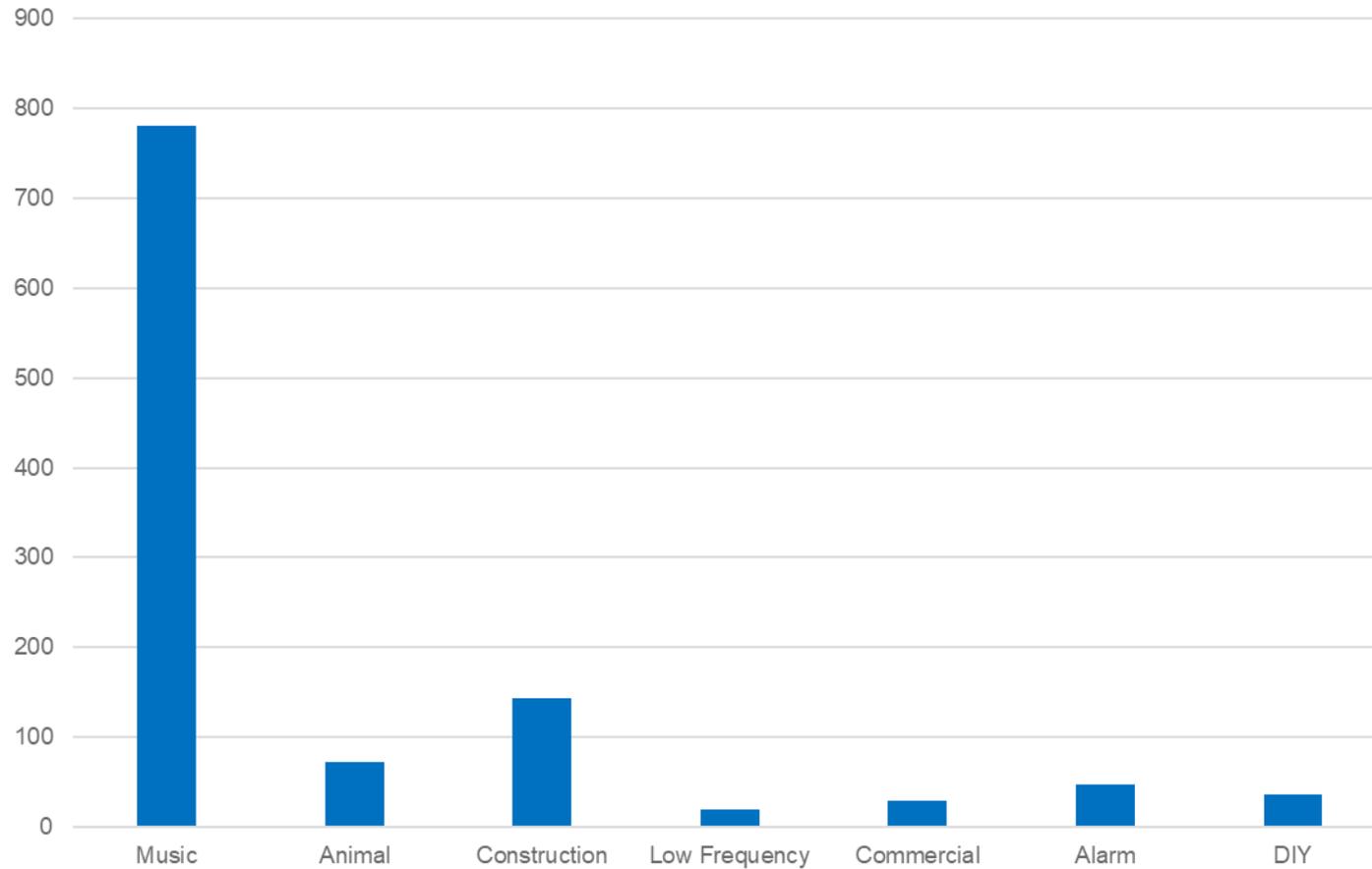


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Source: thenoiseapp.com

Noise complaints by category – 2019

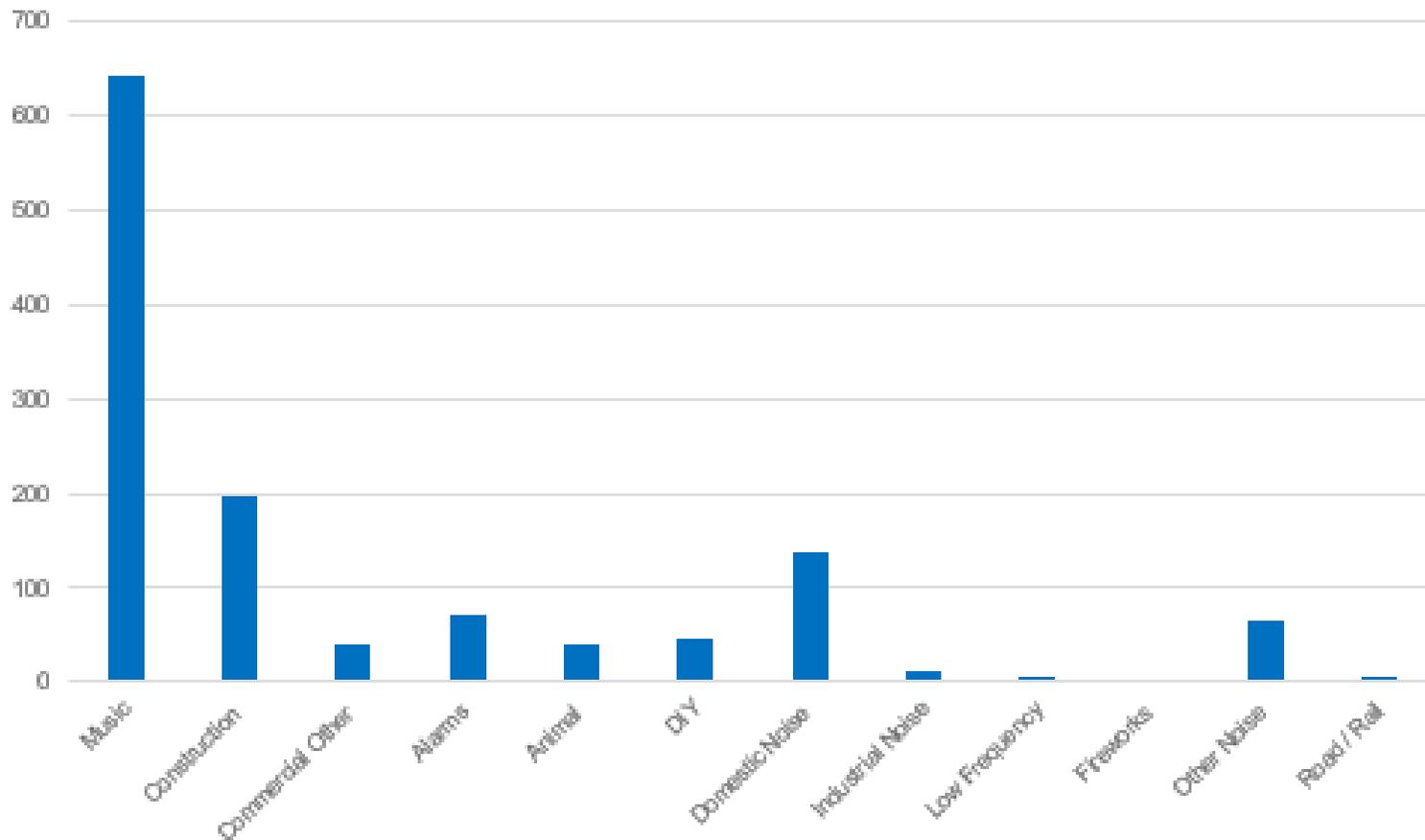
Music noise and construction represent the most significant reported actionable noise incidents. In 2019, domestic noise incidents were filtered out as a reportable noise category.



Source: Acolaid database

Noise complaints by category – 2018

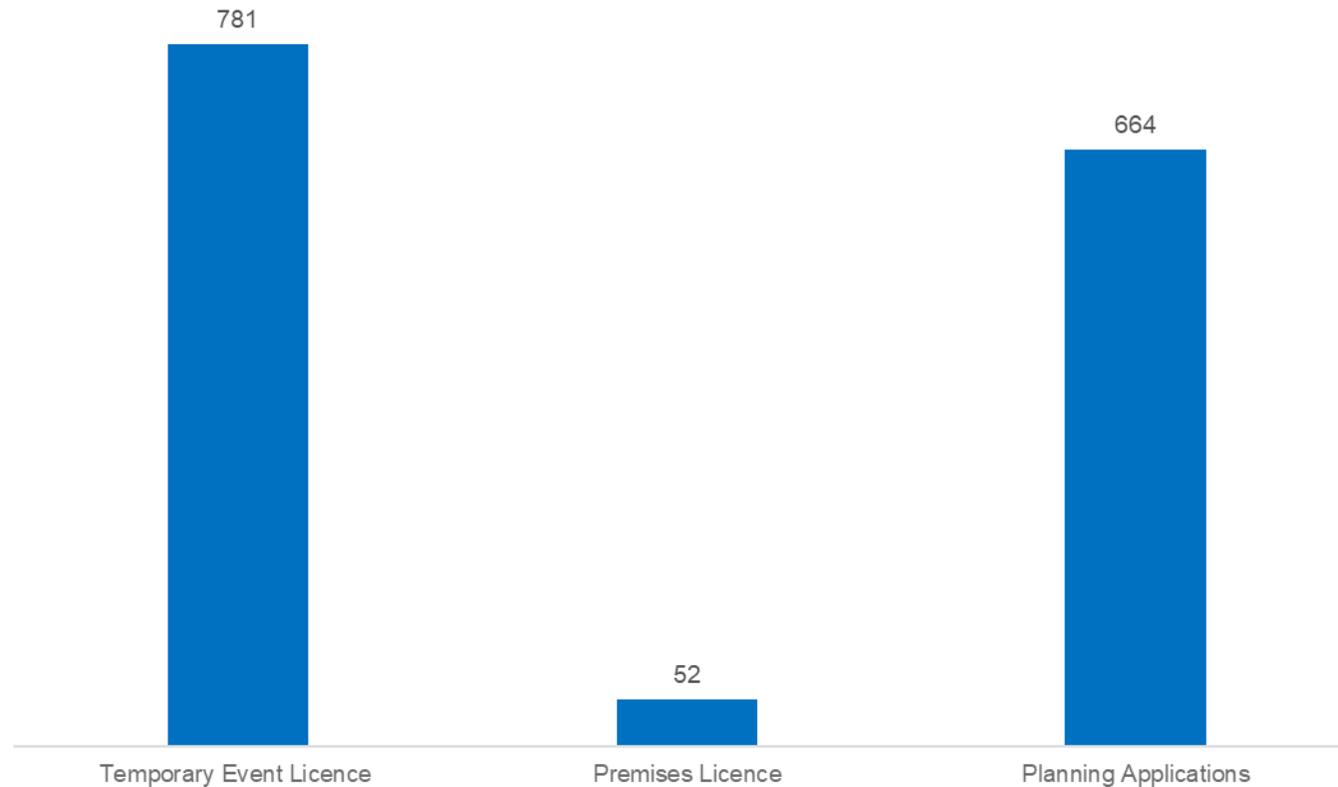
Domestic Noise incidents and Other Noise represented significant reportable noise categories and impacted significantly on team resources, until filtered out as part of a system redesign in 2019. Music noise and construction noise typically represent the most significant reported actionable noise incidents.



Source: Acolaid database

Licensing and Planning Applications 2019

This data shows the demand made upon the Nuisance Control Team in its role as statutory consultee to the Planning Team and as Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, in 2019. Responses to consultations and applications are required within a time-specified period.



Source: Acolaid database