



University of
BRISTOL



Halloween Party.....Party.....? Think...?

This is the number one complaint received to the University, Police and City Council about students living in this area. Residents have been subjected to endless sleepless nights because of parties and excessive noise from students across the area. These students have broken the law and have breached several of the University disciplinary codes which can have a negative effect on prospects. A noisy house party that crashes on until the early hours of the morning might be a good time for partygoers, but the impact on families, children and the elderly surrounding that household is quite significant.

You should be especially aware that the residents in the community that you now reside are highly sensitive to house parties and street noise within this community, as they have experienced unprecedented levels of excessive noise during all times of night in the past.

These residents are in close contact with the University and Police, which means all incidents of excessively noisy parties and/or any related unneighbourly related behaviour will be reported and dealt with. Households involved in such behaviour will be held to account for their actions via University and Police intervention.



University Disciplinary Process. As well as the legal implications to excessive noise / disorderly house parties, the University of Bristol also have Student Disciplinary Rules for such matters. The University imposed penalties for complaints from neighbours about noisy parties are:

- £100 fine per occupant of the household
- Requirement to attend an ASB Impact Awareness session (self-funded)
- Requirement to write a letter of apology
- Your Head of School will be notified

Each instance is assessed on a case by case basis but be aware that these sanctions can be issued on their own or as a combination of the three. Severe cases can be referred to Pro-Vice Chancellor's office.

The intention of this letter is to inform you of the concerns that your neighbours will have within your community, but also to forewarn you about the pitfalls of believing a house party would be a good choice for a social event. The matters highlighted above are still very fresh within this area and you now have the knowledge to avoid receiving complaints and possibly breaking the law.

The Legal Bit. As well as the significant impact on local residents, you should also be aware of the legal implications of disorderly parties and excessive noise.

- Excessively loud parties/events that disrupt the community around them is against the law. The Environmental Protection Act – For more information, go to: www.gov.uk/guidance/noise-nuisances-how-councils-deal-with-complaints
- When a 'party' is an organised event, the organiser will need to obtain a Temporary Events Notice. An example of a 'party' that becomes an 'event' could be where a DJ is playing music for entertainment purposes; where a Door Supervisor is managing entry to the property or where alcohol is being sold. Unlicensed events are against the law. More info online: www.gov.uk/temporary-events-notice.
- The Police have powers to close parties down and take further action under Anti-Social Behaviour legislation, which can be found online: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/679712/2017-12-13_ASB_Revised_Statutory_Guidance_V2.1_Final.pdf
- Bristol City Council can investigate complaints of statutory nuisance to tackle noise produced at any time of day or night. If a noise nuisance is established, then a noise abatement notice can be served on the person(s) responsible for the noise. Failure to comply with an abatement notice can lead to a fine of up to £5000 and seizure of all noise making equipment. More info online: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/pests-pollution-noise/food/noise>

This is not an exhaustive list but should provide you with some information with regards to the law.



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