

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 4:31 PM

From: Antrim And Newtonabbey Council

We are currently investigating an alleged noise nuisance from the site regarding gunshots. Would there be a practice of using shotguns to kill vermin on the site?

Sent: 14 May 2024 09:32

From: NIEA

Thank you for your email.

In response to your query, Eastwood has a bird scarer employed at their Crosshill site, which emits a loud bang (sounds like a gunshot). Bird scarers usually sound about every 10-15 minutes depending on the setting. Would you have any more details about the noise e.g. times etc.?

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 4:43 PM

From: Antrim and Newtonabbey

I had sent you some noise app recordings separately- did you get them

The complainant has been sending them for most of the day

Sent: 14 May 2024 16:50

From: NIEA

Yes, I received them – thank you. I had a listen, and it does sound like the bird scarer. I spoke to the site manager, and he said he'll have a word with the staff to possibly be a bit more aware of when the scarer is turned on (e.g. not as early if there are no birds present). He did also mention that there has been increased bird activity in the area due to agricultural operations in the area.

I'm out on site visits tomorrow, so might be able to call past the site and check what the noise level and frequency is like.

Sent: 15 May 2024 09:35

From: Antrim and Newtonabbey

Also just to see if it can be repositioned or baffled.

This is code of practice <https://www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/protecting-your-crop-nfu-bird-scarers-code-of-practice/>

Will you let me know how you get on?

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:26 AM

From: Antrim and Newtonabbey

How did you get on at your site visit?

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024

From: NIEA

Thank you for your email.

I visited the area near the site last week on Wednesday 15th May. I parked on Crumlin Road (///keener.eased.slips on what3words). While I did hear some noise from the bird scarers (three bangs in fairly quick succession when I arrived), in my opinion, they weren't intrusive, particularly given the proximity of the airport and other sounds in the locality. I sat for approximately 40 minutes, and didn't hear any more.

While I'll certainly follow up with the site operator and during site visits, I'm content to close off the incident, but happy to discuss further if required.

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:30 AM **From:** Antrim and Newtonabbey

Can you please follow up with manager regarding allegations today.

I will also try to get out to listen for myself

Sent: 28 May 2024 11:44 **From:** NIEA

I'm going in to a meeting soon, but I'll phone this afternoon.

That would be very helpful if you could get out to listen – from my visit the noise was definitely not at 30 to 50 second intervals.

Sent: 29 May 2024

From: Antrim and Newtonabbey

I made a call this morning to complainant's house

We were there from 11:15-11:45 and there was just one bang at 11:30

He said there had been none that morning or later yesterday afternoon

I told him to contact me if frequency increased again

Sent: 29 May 2024

From: NIEA

Thanks for your email.

I contacted the site yesterday afternoon. The site manager is off until tomorrow, but staff at the site weren't aware of any increase in frequency.

I'm going to close off this incident at my end, but do let me know if there are any more complaints.