

Queen's University Belfast

Accommodation and Hospitality

Noise Policy and Procedure

1. Introduction

Queen's Accommodation provides you with a safe and comfortable home where you can study, gain independence, develop key skills and make friends for life. Many students living in accommodation will be studying or sleeping at different times, therefore, you are asked to respect your fellow residents and the local community at all times. You are expected to adhere to the Conditions of Occupancy which you agree to when you accept your offer of accommodation.

1.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

The Student Charter clearly sets out your responsibilities as a Queen's student and the University takes a pro-active role in dealing with anti-social behaviour. You are expected to conduct yourself at all times in a manner which demonstrates respect for the University, its staff, fellow students and the local community.

When living in shared accommodation, you need to be aware of how your behaviour affects others. Anti-social behaviour causes disruption and distress for fellow students and neighbours living in the surrounding community and is a breach of the University's Conduct Regulations.

Noise from residential students has been highlighted in summary feedback as an issue by fellow residential students and householders adjacent to the University accommodation. This policy sets out the intervention and actions to be taken in the event of noise complaints.

2. Policy

Whether inside the accommodation or the grounds around the accommodation, noise levels must be kept to a minimum at all times, particularly after 11.00pm, to allow other residents to sleep or study. You are asked not to use speakers or play computer games loudly and to use headphones to alleviate sound travelling.

The majority of accommodation is situated in residential areas and you are expected to respect neighbours who may be elderly, have young children or have to get up early each day. We ask that all bedroom/kitchen windows are closed in the evening and at night to prevent noise travelling to other accommodation and beyond to adjacent residential areas.

2.1 Reporting Noise Issues

You are encouraged to report all instances of excessive noise or if you are affected by anti-social behaviour. Complaints should be reported by calling Elms Village reception on 02890 974525. If you live in offsite housing i.e. 76 Malone Road, Grant House, Guthrie House, College Gardens or Mount Charles, you can report noise complaints by contacting Queen's Security on 02890 975099. In all cases complaints will be treated with discretion.

2.2 Breach of University Conduct Regulations

The creation of excessive noise is regarded as anti-social behaviour and is a breach of the University's Conduct Regulations which can be found at www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/AcademicStudentAffairs/AcademicAffairs/StudentCharter

The following are examples of anti-social behaviour:

- Playing music, singing and loud conversation which is audible to those outside a room or flat
- Unruly behaviour such as shouting, causing a disturbance in the street or within accommodation.

Incidences of noise or other anti-social behaviour are often fuelled by excessive alcohol consumption. The University does not accept this as an excuse for inappropriate behaviour at any time.

Noise levels in individual apartment blocks are monitored throughout the semesters. Any excessive noise caused by students or coming from their accommodation will be recorded and disciplinary action will be taken.

3. Procedure

A two stage procedure will be followed in the event of noise complaints.

Stage 1

- (i) In response to an initial noise complaint, the name(s) of the student(s) involved will be recorded by the Safety team. This will be logged as a first incident on the noise complaint database.
- (ii) The student(s) involved will receive a first noise letter reminding them of their responsibilities as a Queen's student, detailing the stages of the noise policy, should they be involved in further incidents.

Stage 2

- (i) A second noise complaint relating to a student(s) will result in a compulsory meeting with an Investigating Officer.
- (ii) A formal disciplinary investigation may be instigated under the University's Conduct Regulations.

Noise Procedure Flow Chart

