

Appendix 3: Night Filming

These guidelines are for filmmakers wishing to film or undertake filming-related activity outside social hours in residential and commercial areas in Edinburgh.

Unsocial or 'night filming' refers to any filming activities taking place between 23:00 and 07:00.

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 and commercial areas it is essential to consult with local residents and businesses in the planning process and adequate time must be allowed for this. Any planned noise in anti-social hours, including the lowering of crane arms, needs to be time-specific and local residents/businesses notified as such.

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, CEC 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 circumstances when filming takes place in residential and business areas.

Therefore in all instances, CEC via Film Edinburgh 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 CEC / Film Edinburgh can result in the termination of filming at that location and withdrawal of any permits or traffic orders obtained. Therefore it is advisable to film all scenes requiring noise above conversational level before 22:00.
- Filming in residential areas should be finished and de-rigged no later than 23:00, unless prior permission has been granted by CEC 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 super-silent generators, which should be sensitively located.
- 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 place and attended overnight by security staff. Should this happen, Film Edinburgh 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 and traders if requested.
- Black out material should be made available to residents and traders if required, and the production company should make staff available to assist those residents that are not able to put up or take down the blackout material.
- The production company should be prepared to take immediate action if complaints about noise or lighting in antisocial hours are received.

[Requesting approval to film outside social hours](#)

Code of Practice for filming in Edinburgh: A-Z Guidelines



In order to comply with the Environmental Protection Act (1990), where a Production Company identifies a need to work outside normal hours they should liaise as soon as possible with Film Edinburgh who will in turn liaise with CEC'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 methods to minimise noise.

It is recommended that filmmakers factor in three week's notice in order to allow adequate time for community consultation.