

FOI Ref
11886

Response sent
16 Nov 2022

(CCC) Change of "allowed hours of work" for construction/demolition sites

The "hours of work" for construction sites at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/construction-sites> are given as 7am-7pm mon-fri, and 7am-1pm sat .

For as long as I can remember, and as recently as October 2021, the requirement was 8am-6pm mon-fri and 8am-1pm sat.

(see

<https://web.archive.org/web/20211027183016/https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/construction-sites>).

Furthermore, the requirement has been turned into a "recommendation"

When were these changes made, and by what authority? What public consultation occurred?

I am interested in both the change to time, and also the change from a requirement to a recommendation

Response

The recommended construction hours within our environmental health construction site information (for construction works which do not require planning permission or did not have construction hours conditioned as part of the planning regime) are only recommendations as environmental health legislation does not stipulate hours for construction, as explained within our website. Therefore we recommend typical daytime hours to assist in preventing nuisance from noise pollution. If the recommended hours have changed within our environmental health advice, it is to be consistent with nuisance investigations rather than planning applications.

The hours we recommend to the planning department (when consulted) within most planning permissions for construction / demolition are as you have mentioned, 8am-6pm Mon-Fri and 8am-1pm Sat as the planning regime strives to protect local amenity and quality of life which is a higher standard of protection than nuisance under environmental health legislation. Nuisance is a basic safeguarding standard to deal with excessive emissions. Nuisance does not equate to loss of amenity.

We aim to provide a high-quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk