

## C. Urban venues

The Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts, Noise Council, 1995 (Pop Code) has been withdrawn by The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). While the replacement remains in consultation, the 1995 Pop Code continues to provide guidance, including 'Table 1' relating to the type of venue and number of concert days per calendar year & reproduced in Table 7 on page 18.

The table indicates a level of up to 75dB LAeq 15' is satisfactory for up to 3 concert days for some venues. The revised code suggests more than 3 events per year are acceptable contingent on context.

Table 4 below summarises the conditions currently in use at 21 urban park venues. The local authority is clearly satisfied having issued Premises Licences & there is no evidence to suggest that there is any public nuisance caused.

Urban venues	Days per Year	Music Noise Level guidance
Queen Elizabeth Park, London	6	75dB LAeq 15'
Hyde Park, London	6	75dB LAeq 15'
Victoria Park, London	9	75dB LAeq 15'
Lambeth parks (5 parks), London	8	75dB LAeq 15'
Heaton Park, Manchester	6	75dB LAeq 15'
Crystal Palace Park, London	6	75dB LAeq 15'
Central Park, East Ham, London	4	75dB LAeq 15'
Beckenham Place Park, London	3	75dB LAeq 15'
Alexandra Park, London	3	75dB LAeq 15'
Bellahouston Park, Glasgow	3	75dB LAeq 15'
Morden Park, Merton	3	75dB LAeq 15'
Dreamland, Margate	8	75dB LAeq 15'
Victoria Park, Leicester	3	75dB LAeq 15'
York Sports Club, York	3	75dB LAeq 15'
Victorious Festival, Southsea	3	75dB LAeq 15'
High Tide Festival, Bournemouth	3	75dB LAeq 15'
On The Beach, Brighton	6	75dB LAeq 15'

Table 9- Urban venue limits

It is widely recognized that how often a noise occurs plays a significant role in how much annoyance or disturbance it causes. This means that when assessing the impact of noise, it is not just about the intensity or how loud it is perceived, but also the recurrence or how frequently it happens. For instance, large music events that occur 12 days by year are generally considered to have a greater impact than those that happen only 6 days by year.

The community can be adequately protected from excessive Music Noise exposure by controlling the frequency in combination with intensity. For example, the Music Noise Level can be safely increased, by limiting the number of days. This concept was considered in the guidelines for outdoor concerts, where recommended noise limits were influenced by how often these events took place.

Since the 1995 Code of Practice, there has been a significant increase in the number of outdoor events in the UK, both in terms of venues used and their frequency. Surprisingly, this growth has not led to disproportionately adverse effects on communities. This suggests that the original thresholds based on frequency of occurrence, while cautious at the time, may have been unduly limiting in context. Therefore, there is scope to adjust these thresholds for a contextual increase in Music Noise Level or event days without causing unacceptable disturbance to affected communities.