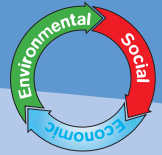


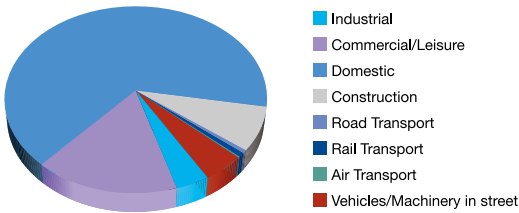


Noise



Noise has been given a variety of definitions depending on the circumstances in which it occurs and the effect that it produces. Noise may have various effects on people exposed to it, ranging from discomfort and annoyance to various psychological and physical conditions.

Source of Noise Complaints 2001/2

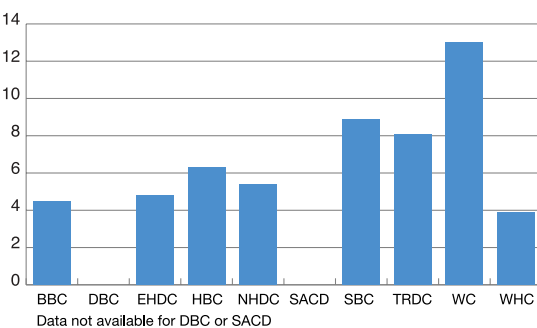


Noise is increasingly a source of irritation and stress to many people and is attributable to a wide variety of sources. The chart illustrates the main types of complaint made to Hertfordshire local councils in 2001/2. The total number of complaints in 2001/2 increased by 5% from the previous year with domestic noise being the largest category by far.

INDICATOR NO1 - Noise Complaints Received per 1,000 Population

The graph below shows the number of noise complaints made to each council in Hertfordshire in 2001/2 in terms of its population size.

Complaints per 1000 Population 2001/2



Aircraft Noise

The major civil airports of London Luton and London Stansted lie just outside the county's borders. Aircraft noise is therefore an important factor for many Hertfordshire residents' quality of life.

Figures for 2001 recorded a decrease in complaints with a total of 868 (1,512 in 2000) complaints from Luton and an increase in the total figure for complaints from Stansted Airport with 4,894 (3,548 in 2000).

Although it is not possible to arrive at a precise figure an increase in complaints from Hertfordshire residents was recorded with 1,706 complaints from last year to approximately 2,150 aircraft noise complaints.

However, the number of complaints is an inadequate measure of disturbance as many people will not complain about events which they feel they have no way of influencing, while on other occasions campaigns can 'artificially' boost complaint numbers.

The recent government consultation on airport development has heightened people's awareness of aircraft and aircraft noise. In the future while some noisier aircraft will be replaced by less noisy types the increase in flights over Hertfordshire, not just from Luton and Stansted, is likely to increase disturbance.