

## **Script for starting a light pollution discussion with a local business**

### **Phone the business:**

Hello, I'm a local resident and the lighting coming from your site may be causing a statutory offence. Before I take this any further I would like to speak to the person responsible for the onsite exterior lighting.

The next contact is usually the H&S or Operations Manager:

I'm a local resident and the lighting coming from your site is causing a nuisance. I would like to talk to you about how this might be improved. I'm sure that you are aware of Section 102 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005) which makes it a statutory offence to cause a nuisance?

I'm sure it's a simple thing to fix. Can I send you some information<sup>1</sup> and perhaps we could meet to discuss this further?

### **Key things to have as evidence:**

Photos, both daylight showing the site of the light(s) and night-time showing the glare.

Photos taken when it is slightly misty are great at showing the wider environmental spread of their lights.

Google map showing where they are in relation to where you are is also useful.

Best approach:

Leave it to them to come up with ideas for what can be done, only make your own suggestions if theirs are inadequate.

Avoid painting them into a corner where you have to threaten contacting the Local Authority or taking legal action.

You may need to escalate the situation step by step:

1. Starting with the Operations Manager
2. Moving on to the General Manager or a Director.
3. Local Authority EHO. NB: Local Authorities are often reluctant to take this on so perhaps give this step a miss.
4. Chairman or owner of the business. Often effective if you use the public nuisance or waste of money arguments.
5. Local newspaper, social media etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Start simple with the DEFRA getting light right leaflet, gradually working your way up to the ILP's Guidance note 1 or even the Government's report on artificial light in the environment.



**Stick with it**

You are unlikely to be successful at first, but stick with it. Show them that you are committed and with each contact provide some more information, another guidance note or move along to the next contact person if required.

Try not to get too emotionally invested though as sometimes you will initially fail to convince the businesses/individuals causing the issue.