

## Neighbour guide 4

# Empty Homes and Anti Social Behaviour



Thankfully not all neighbours will experience antisocial behaviour linked to empty properties. We hope action can be taken with properties before they attract attention. However, if you live next to a property where the situation has escalated or is at risk of doing so this guide is for you.

### **The empty property next to me is attracting anti social behaviour what can I do?**

The longer a property stays empty, the more likely it is to deteriorate and send a signal it has been abandoned. Very overgrown gardens and boarded up windows can be clear signs that a property has been unoccupied for some time. This could make next door a target for

anti social behaviour. You will understandably want to act to ensure your own safety and protect your property.

Anti social behaviour is anything that may cause fear and alarm.

This can include:-

- Fly tipping
- Unauthorised entry to the garden or empty property
- Graffiti and vandalism
- Fire setting

If there is criminal activity associated with the property or if you feel in danger then you should contact the police immediately.

If you become aware of any concerning activity linked to the empty property, we advise you to keep a log of incidents. Note the day, time and any relevant details. You should also report this to your [local empty homes officer](#) and police on the non emergency number (101)

Your local council may also have an anti social behaviour investigation or community safety team.

Police may not be able attend for incidents where there isn't an immediate danger. Reporting these incidents still helps to build up a picture of the impact the empty home is having. This helps the local council, emergency services and other agencies gather evidence of the problem.

If the property is affecting other neighbours too, they can also report concerns. A coordinated approach may add strength to the case. You can find out more about

acting together to highlight an issue in our **Guide 5 Sharing your story**

[Citizens Advice Scotland](#) has further information on dealing with anti social behaviour:-

### **How can I safeguard my own property?**

You may be limited in what you can do without council or emergency service intervention to stop incidents happening at a neighbouring property. However, there are steps you can take to safeguard your own property and hopefully stop things spilling over.

- **Consider security lighting**
- **Light up your home – especially in the dark nights keep some lights on when you are out**
- **Keep doors and windows locked**

- Consider security measures such as an alarm system
- Make sure any garage, shed or outbuildings are secure
- Make sure your car, bikes or any other valuable items kept outside the house or in the garden are secure.

[https://www.diy.com/ideas-advice/20-ways-to-keep-your-home-secure/CC\\_npcart\\_400233.art](https://www.diy.com/ideas-advice/20-ways-to-keep-your-home-secure/CC_npcart_400233.art)

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/burglar-alarms-and-smart-security-systems/article/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/home-security-aytQY4M9bm35>

The following resources also provide more tips:-

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-home/>