



Night Filming Requirements

Night is considered the hours between sunset and sunrise.

Night filming is very sensitive and we consider night filming to be between 21:00 – 08:00 as a general rule.

In residential areas acceptable working hours are as follows and productions must schedule filming accordingly:

Filming

08:00 – No turning up by any cast, crew, vehicles or personnel prior to 08:00.

21:00 – Productions must be completely clear of site by 21:00

Prep/Strike

Standard working hours are between 08:00 – 18:00

We have sensitive areas where there will be no movement on these times, but proposals are considered on a case-by-case basis for other areas with all factors taken into consideration.

All proposals are subject to agreement and approval by Merton Film Office (MFO). If there is significant opposition to filming proposals from local residents, businesses or stakeholders then MFO will not support the filming proposal and have adequate grounds to turn down the request.

Please find an overview of required actions & points of consideration that productions must factor in to their planning and ensure suitable measures are put in place to address when considering night filming so that no legitimate complaints ensue.

Consultation

Consultation plays a key role to ensure that local residents, businesses and stakeholders are aware of filming proposals in advance. Communication is vital and enables any concerns to be raised prior to filming taking place so that filmmakers can establish practical working solutions to ensure filming runs smoothly for all parties involved causing the minimal of disturbance at all times.

All night shoots are to be coordinated with MFO who will confirm all consultation requirements on a case-by-case basis to be reflective of proposals/areas.

Productions must letter drop local residents, businesses & stakeholders affected by filming. All productions must use the MFO template letter and have content signed off prior to distribution. Productions must also liaise in person with those directly affected by filming. MFO will confirm areas to be distributed.

Productions must record responses from residents, businesses & stakeholders and provide these to the Film Officer.

For high-impact filming it is not unusual for 2 letters to be distributed and a resident meeting to be arranged as part of the consultation.

Final letters are required to be distributed 1 week in advance of filming to ensure adequate time allowed for residents to voice their concerns. MFO will advise the location manager of local concerns and these must be resolved to the satisfaction of the Film Officer prior to filming taking place.



Timings

Any activity, including filming, is subject to the Environmental Act (1990) regarding noise and nuisance (including light pollution). A legitimate complaint about noise or nuisance from a resident to the Local Authority can result in the termination of the shoot and the confiscation of equipment. Therefore, it is advisable;

To shoot all high-impact scenes above conservation levels including stunts, shouting and gunfire before **23:00**. All scenes involving loud noises must be silenced using post-production sound after this time.

Standard T&Cs

- No megaphones to be used or shouting by any members of crew at any time
- No lighting shining directly into resident's homes/properties unless permission is granted
- All crew to wear covert headsets (Radios & Earpieces) after 20:00. Radio levels to be turned down to minimum required at all times
- Blackouts offered to residents potentially affected by light pollution
- On wrap productions to carry out essential de-rig only to make the location safe. Full de-rigging to be complete the following day from 08:00.
- Large technical vehicles to be left in position on wrap and moved from 08:00 the following morning
- Engines must be turned off when vehicles are not in use - no engines left running for vehicles parking in the area
- MFO will take a security deposit (fully refundable) to ensure productions adhere to set T&Cs.

MFO will require a letter from the Producer or Line Producer confirming their acceptance and agreement of the terms and conditions imposed on their filming and included in their filming licence to minimise the impact on local residents, businesses and stakeholders.

Additional

MFO will need to see the script for the scene(s) to be shot so that they have an accurate idea of what is intended: a realistic wrap-time for the amount of action to be shot is to be given.

MFO will advise of best days to consider for night filming. Generally speaking night filming should be scheduled when there is no working day following. Consideration must be given to areas where young children reside and school days follow proposed filming.

MFO will advise if any active TRA or community organisation in the area that must be contacted and offered a donation as part of the filming taking place.