

# Train bosses could be prosecuted over noise nuisance from Reading depot

Great Western Railway and Network Rail have been given noise abatement orders after "years of inactivity"



Noise coming from Reading Train Care Depot is keeping neighbours awake

Train bosses could be prosecuted if noise nuisance from a [Reading](#) depot is not sorted within six months.

[Reading Borough Council](#) has slapped [Great Western Railway](#) (GWR) and [Network Rail](#) with noise abatement orders after neighbours' lives have been blighted for more than four years.

People living in Cardiff Road have complained about sleepless nights due to noise coming from the Reading Train Care Depot.

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The council issued the orders after nothing was done despite it making repeated requests to the train companies about the problem since the depot opened in 2013.

An extensive investigation from environmental protection officers and independent experts found the noise from the depot is affecting the health of those living nearby.

The noise abatement notices follow years of talks between GWR (previously First Great Western) and Network Rail but no solution has ever been found.

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One solution was the proposed electrification of the line, but that has been delayed, which means trains will continue to be serviced and repaired at the site.

**"We have a responsibility for the health of residents and the status quo cannot be allowed to continue."**

The council has stated it is willing to consider all "reasonable proposals" to resolve the issue.

Councillor Tony Page, Reading Borough Council's lead member for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, said: "It is regrettable that the council has had to take this action, but it follows years of inactivity from both GWR/FGW and Network Rail on this important issue.

"In the meantime residents in Cardiff Road continue to suffer from noise disturbance and sleepless nights as a result of the noisy diesel trains that continue to be serviced from the enlarged Reading Train Care Depot.

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"If electrification had been delivered on time, it would have meant by the end of 2017 far fewer diesel trains would have been serviced in Reading.

"The recent collapse of the electrification programme however, and the lack of any clarity of timescales, means there is no end in sight to the misery for residents.

"We have commissioned acoustic and other experts, and having now established that a statutory nuisance prejudicial to health exists, the council clearly has little option but to proceed to serve the legal notices.

"We sincerely hope that it brings both Network Rail and GWR to the table for serious consideration of this matter.

"The council has no desire to disrupt the day to day operation of the railway.

"The council is clear however, that we have a responsibility for the health of local residents, and that the status quo cannot be allowed to continue.

"We are also aware that in many cases mediation can offer a speedy solution to such problems.

"We hope that such discussions can take place without further delay, offering a solution to the satisfaction of all parties, not least the long-suffering residents of Cardiff Road."