The Office of Environment of the Consell de Formentera is processing 46 disciplinary proceedings for noise pollution in view of reports filed by Formentera Local Police last year. Most of the associated fines fall under Article 18 of the Municipal Ordinance for the Protection of the Environment and Health against Noise and Vibration Pollution, which prohibits disrupting collective coexistence. Violations are punishable by fines of up to €750 for minor offences and up to €3,000 for very serious offences. Under the ordinance, committing more than one minor offence in a period of fewer than two years is considered a serious offence, while more than one serious offence in the same period warrants a very serious offence.

New noise plan and modified ordinance

The Office of Environment is finalising the Municipal Action Plan on Noise, noise map and noise zoning map of Formentera. This plan "will help improve islanders' quality of life and our environment and will allow us to promote policies to improve environmental quality", said Antoni Tur, environment councillor.



The new noise plan "mean Formentera can modify its current ordinance, which dates from 2014, and study increasing fines." Likewise, the councillor stressed that "coordination with other competent administrations and security forces will be key to preventing noise pollution in sensitive and protected areas of the island."

The plan is divided into three phases. The first involves preparing the noise map and acoustic zoning; second, drafting the Municipal Action Plan on Noise; and third, a proposed modification of the current Municipal Noise Ordinance and the declaration of Special Noise Protection Zones (*ZPAE*). Moreover, given the uniqueness of the island, two different noise maps, for high and low season, have been established.

This document will mean urban planning and economic activity decisions can be evaluated according to acoustic criteria, and will put Formentera in line with European, state and regional regulations on noise pollution.

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Communications Office
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