

Yes, in principle an acceptable alternative is to provide a solid barrier between the heat source pump and any affected neighbours. There are some caveats.

- The barrier and its geometry relative to the top of the heat source pump and receptor position (neighbour's window) need to be established and shown in a drawing so that it is possible to judge that either grazing (-5dB) or full (-10dB) attenuation is possible according to the MCS standard. This will determine the necessary height and width of the barrier. Consideration needs to be given to all of the neighbour's windows serving habitable rooms (i.e. bedrooms, living rooms and dining rooms) in this regard.
- Second, the barrier construction needs to be complete without gaps or holes. A close boarded fence for example will provide sufficient attenuation for sound passing through its structure. Confirmation of the proposed structure is important.
- Third, we need to be satisfied that any more distant neighbours without benefit from a barrier, are not likely to be affected. Thus far we have only considered the closest neighbour. If there are any a similar MCS assessment for any such properties that may be affected would suffice to satisfy this concern.

Finally, as a reminder the particular plant to be installed needs to be specified with information from the manufacturer showing its maximum sound power level.