



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Department for Environment,
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Area 2C Nobel House
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London SW1P 3JR

Date: 23 July 2013

Dear Consultee

Consultation on draft Noise Action Plans

1. I am writing to invite your views on the draft Noise Action Plans for large urban areas (agglomerations), roads (including major roads) and railways (including major railways). This consultation forms part of the process of fulfilling our obligations under the Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC, which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006, as amended.
2. The END and the Regulations require us to produce or revise Noise Action Plans based on the results of strategic noise mapping, the second round of which was completed in 2012. Similar Action Plans have previously been published following the first round of noise mapping.
3. Links to the following documents may be found on Defra's website: www.gov.uk/defra
 - This consultation letter
 - Consultation document
 - List of consultees
 - Draft Noise Action Plan for Agglomerations (which includes details of the processes for identifying Important Areas (noise 'hotspots') and quiet areas)
 - Draft Agglomerations Action Plan Appendix B – Supporting Data Template
 - Draft Noise Action Plan for Roads (Including Major Roads)
 - Draft Noise Action Plan for Railways (Including Major Railways)
4. It should be noted that throughout the various draft Action Plans, reference is made to data that will be published on the Defra website. That data are not available yet, but will be when the final adopted Action Plans are published. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the principles described.
5. If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation please email us at NoiseAPConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk or telephone on 020 7238 5931.



Responses

6. Please send responses to either:

Joan How
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 2B
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Or email: NoiseAPConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

7. Responses should be received by **29 October 2013**.

Consultation Criteria

8. This consultation is in line with the Consultation Principles. These can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance> .

9. When this consultation ends, we intend to hold copies of the responses at Defra's offices in Nobel House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under Freedom of Information legislation.

10. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

11. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.gov.uk/defra. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

12. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact:

Joan How
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 2B
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 0207 238 5931

Email: Noise@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Where possible, please give at least 24 hours' notice. There may be a charge for photocopying and postage.

13. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Better Regulation Team, Area 629, 9 Millbank, c/o Nobel House, 17, Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.
14. The draft Noise Action Plans contain some information about the implementation of the Round 1 Action Plans and we intend to publish a progress report alongside the publication of the final Round 2 Action Plans. Should you have any comments on this aspect of the process, please include them along with your consultation responses.
15. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Tania Plahay
Head of Environmental Noise Policy Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

www.gov.uk/defra

Email: NoiseAPConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

List of Consultees

Association of Directors of Public Health

Association of Noise Consultants

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Environment Agency

Environmental Protection UK

Highways Agency

Institute of Acoustics

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

Local Authorities in England

Local Government Association

Local Highways Authorities in England

Noise Abatement Society

Network Rail

Office of Rail Regulation

Public Health England

Rail Safety and Standards Board

Royal Town Planning Institute

UK Noise Association