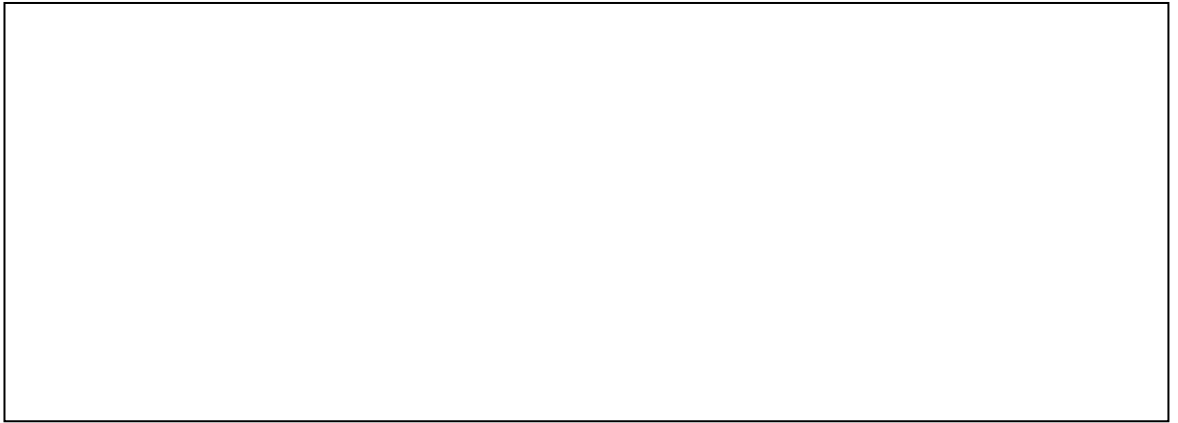


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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House





- 2.1 Noise is an inevitable consequence of a mature and vibrant society. For some the noise of city life provides a desirable sense of excitement and exhilaration, but for others noise is an unwanted intrusion that adversely impacts on their quality of life, affecting their health and well being.
- 2.2 The management of noise has developed over many years as the types and changed. The Noise Abatement Act came into law in 1960 and the Report from the Committee on the Problem of Noise was published in 1963 (the Wilson report). Since then, examples of noise management can be found in many areas including reducing noise at source; the use of the land use and transport planning systems, compensation measures, the statutory nuisance and licensing regimes and other related legislation.
- 2.3 Furthermore, the broad aim of noise management has been to separate noise isolation and to a literal extreme, noise minimisation would mean no noise at all. In reality, although it has not always been stated, the aim has tended to be to minimise Environmental Protection Act 1990, where, in some circumstances, there is a
- 2.4 By describing clear policy vision and aims the NPSE provides the necessary clarity and direction to enable decisions to be made regarding what is an acceptable noise burden to place on society.
- 2.5 The intention is that the NPSE should apply to all types of noise apart from noise in the workplace (occupational noise). For the purposes of the NPSE, noise includes:
- inside and outside
homes; and
h includes noise arising from within the
community such as industrial and entertainment premises, trade and
business premises, construction sites and noise in the street.
- 2.6 The application of the NPSE should mean that noise is properly taken into account at the appropriate time. In the past, the opportunity for the cost effective management of noise has often been missed because the noise implications of a particular policy, development or other activity have not been considered at an early enough stage.
- 2.7 In addition, the application of the NPSE should enable noise to be considered alongside other relevant issues and not to be considered in isolation. In the past, the wider benefits of a particular policy, development or other activity may not have been given adequate weight when assessing the noise implications.

- 2.8 In the longer term, the Government hopes that existing policies could be reviewed (on a prioritised basis), and revised if necessary, so that the policies and any noise management measures being adopted accord with the vision, aims and principles of the NPSE.
- 2.9 Noise management is a complex issue and at times requires complex solutions.

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