



Donegal Local Authorities

Noise Action Plan 2013 -2018

Summary Report Annex V

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Donegal County Council
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Lifford
Co. Donegal

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Description of Major Roads

The present action planning areas within the County of Donegal have been identified and are listed below;

- ◆ N15 route from Drowes River in the townland of Magheracar to a point 106m southeast of the junction between Bridgestreet and the N15 in Lifford. This route bypasses the towns of Bundoran, Ballyshannon and Donegal Town. The route traverses through the towns of Ballybofey, Stranorlar and Lifford and villages of Killygordan, Liscooley and Castlefinn.
- ◆ N56 route from the Roundabout in the townland of Drumlonagher to the junction between the R263 and the N56 in the townland of Aghayeevoge. This route bypasses Donegal Town but passes through some residential/industrial areas to the west of the town and bypasses the village of Mountcharles while it goes through the villages of Inver, Dunkineeley and Bruckless.
- ◆ N56 route from the Polestar roundabout in the townland of Ballyraine to the Pramerica Roundabout in the townlands of Knocknamona/Windyhall.
- ◆ N13 route from the junction between the N13 and the N15 in the townland of Stranorlar to Bridge End to a point 1.1km south east of the junction between the R238 and the N13 in the townland of Bunnamayne. This route bypasses the villages of Drumkeen, Manorcunningham and Newtowncunningham.
- ◆ N14 route from the Polestar Roundabout in the townland of Ballyraine to the Dry Arch Roundabout in the townland of Bunnagee and a second section of the N14 route from the Roundabout junction between the N13 and N14 in the townland of Raymoghey to the Roundabout junction between the N14 and N15 in the townland of Townparks and located in the town of Lifford.
- ◆ R229 route from the Polestar Roundabout to Station Roundabout to Oatfield Roundabout to the Hospital Roundabout and on to the Pramerica Roundabout where it joins in with the N56. This route is within the urban area of Letterkenny.

- ◆ R250 route from Station Roundabout in the townland of Letterkenny to the junction between the R250 and the R251 in the townland of Doon Glebe.
- ◆ R250 route from Station Roundabout in the townland of Letterkenny to a point 0.3km southwest of the junction between the R250 and Oliver Plunkett Road.
- ◆ R245 route from a point 0.39km southwest of the junction between the R245 and the L-5904 in the townland of Ballyraine to the junction between the R245 and the R247 in the townland of Rossreagh located in the village of Ramelton.
- ◆ R238 route from the Bridge End Roundabout junction with the N13 in the townland of Carrowreagh to the junction between the Looking Glass Brae road and the R238 in the townland of Ballymacarry Lower
- ◆ R238 route from Liberty Bridge in the townland of Craig located in the village of Muff to the junction between the R238 and the R240 in the townland of Carrowkeel.

Responsible Authority

The Action Planning Authorities (APA) is the Local Authorities within whose functional areas the major road/railway/airport/agglomeration is located. In this case the APA is Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Town Council, Buncrana Town Council and Bundoran Town Council.

Legal Context

The Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 designate noise mapping bodies and action planning authorities for the making of strategic noise maps and noise action plans. This is outlined Article 6 of the Regulations.

The European Community Directive 2002/49/EC (known as the Environmental Noise Directive or “END”) deals with the assessment and management of environmental noise.

The aim of the directive is to:

“Define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise.”

The Directive requires that Member States:

- 1) Undertake strategic noise mapping to determine exposure to environmental noise;
- 2) Ensure information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public;
- 3) Adopt action plans, based upon the noise mapping results with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health, and to preserving environmental noise quality where it is good.

The END requires all European Union (EU) Member States to produce strategic noise maps for the main sources of environmental noise, i.e. major roads, major railways, major airports and all sources within agglomerations with a population of more than 100,000 persons in 2012 and subsequent rounds.

Aside from the guidelines for quarries, there is currently no national policy or guidance to address noise issues as part of the planning process. Donegal Planning Authorities can impose conditions on any grant of permission, in appropriate circumstances, to avoid or prevent the harmful effects, including annoyance that is likely to arise due to exposure to environmental noise.

Any Limit Values in Place

There are no statutory limits in place in relation to environmental noise exposures at EU or National Level. The EPA recommends (ref EPA Guidance document) that the proposed onset levels for assessment of noise mitigation measures for noise due to road traffic should be as follows:

- 70dB, L_{den} and
- 57dB, L_{night}

A Summary of Results of the Noise Mapping

Annex VI of the END requires that the estimated number of people living in dwellings exposed to various noise levels on the most exposed façade. In order to derive these results the following datasets were used

- population data from the CSO
- address data from the geo-directory
- façade points output by the noise model (describing the noise level at the facade of every building),
- building polygons, used by the noise model

The population data used was from Census 2011 and is using the ‘*small areas*’ geographies which are areas of between 50 and 200 dwellings, downloaded from the CSO website, as well as ED’s, and Administrative counties. The address data used was Geo-Directory from quarter 2 2011 (Q2 2011). Façade points were the outputs of noise modeling. For the noise mapping 2012 project a noise model was created with a 2km buffer on each county. By analysing all these datasets together it was possible to estimate the average number of people for each residence in the test area (the small area) and assign a noise level to that building. These estimates were collated to derive an overall exposure level for the County. The estimated population exposure for Donegal is shown in tables 4 and 5:

Table 4: Population Exposure Data, (L_{den})

L_{den}	Approximate Number of People	L_{den}	Approximate Area (km ²)
<55	29,818		
55-59	4,855	>55	95
60-64	3,543		
65-69	2,802	>65	19
70-74	967		
>75	97	>75	2

Table 5: Population Exposure Data, (L_{night})

L_{night}	Approximate Number of People	L_{night}	Approximate Area (km ²)
<50	33,796		
50-54	3,775	>50	53
55-59	3,191		
60-64	1,190	>60	9
65-69	127		
>70	3	>70	0.01

From the tables above and taking the limits as set out in the EPA guidance document it can be roughly estimated that a possible 1,065 people will be affected L_{den} and 1,323 people will be affected L_{night} .

An Evaluation of the estimated number of people exposed to noise, identification of problems and situations that need to be improved.

Work is to be undertaken as part of the five year programme to identify problems and situation that need to be improved.

Record of Public Consultation

A preliminary draft of this Noise Action Plan was initially prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their comments as required by the Environmental Noise Regulations. Amendments were then made to the ‘draft’ Noise Action Plan to incorporate the comments received from the EPA. The ‘draft’ Noise Action Plan was subsequently placed on public display at Donegal Local Authorities Offices.

The Draft Noise Action Plan was put on public display for 6 weeks, beginning on 6th June 2013, with a further 2 weeks for submissions, ending at 4.00pm on the 1st August 2013. During this time, written submissions were invited. A notice was placed in the local newspapers, the Donegal Democrat, Donegal News and Inish Times in advance advising the public of the locations where and when the plan was on display.

A copy of the Draft Noise Action Plan was put in the following public buildings:

- Donegal Public Services Centre, Donegal Town
- Letterkenny Public Services Centre, Letterkenny
- Dungloe Public Services Centre, Dungloe
- Buncrana Town Council Offices, Buncrana
- Carndonagh Public Services Centre, Carndonagh
- Bundoran Town Council Offices, Bundoran

A copy of the Draft Noise Action Plan was also available to download on the Donegal County Council website. (Donegal County Council website: www.donegalcoco.ie.)

Members of the public were asked to submit any observations, comments or suggestions in relation to the plan in writing to **The County Secretary Office, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, County Donegal** marked "**Submission - Draft Noise Action Plan**" or emailed to noiseactionplan@donegalcoco.ie before 4.00 p.m. on 1st August 2013.

In addition to seeking submissions from the general public, the following stakeholders have been asked to comment on the 'draft' Noise Action Plan;

- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Roads Authority
- Leitrim County Council
- Strabane District Council
- Derry City Council
- The Department for Regional Development (DRD) (Northern Ireland)
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG)
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- An Taisce

The 'draft' Noise Action Plan was also forwarded to relevant stakeholders (e.g.) National Road Design/Regional Design Office and the Planning Section for comment. The Environment and Emergency Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) were also advised that the draft Noise Action Plan was being placed on public display.

No submission were received.

Any Noise reduction measures already in force and any projects in preparation

None at this time.

Action which the APA intend to take in the next five years

Year One (2013):

Apply the matrix assessment method described in Section 6.1 to identify from noise maps specific areas for which further assessment may be warranted (i.e. monitoring).

Year One to Two (2013 to 2014):

Identify the budget to begin the verification process on the areas of most concern regarding noise exposure. Donegal Local Authorities will initiate a verification process by carrying out on-site noise measurements to confirm the models measurement of noise exposure in these areas.

Identify areas for consideration as Quiet Areas by cross referencing the areas of the noise maps below 55 db L_{day} with a dataset of public open spaces to produce a list of potential quiet areas.

Identify noise sensitive areas within the action plan area and apply the matrix assessment method described in Section 6.2 and 6.1 to identify if further assessment may be warranted (i.e. monitoring).

Draw up list of areas for noise mitigation review.

Year Two to Three (2014 to 2015):

Carry out road traffic counts to verify that existing roads within the action plan area are carrying in excess of three million vehicles per annum.

Ensure that adequate traffic flow data is collected for all roads in the county so that the action plan area can be reviewed or amended if necessary.

Year Three to Four (2016 to 2017):

Conduct a feasibility study to identify possible mitigation measures from list of areas identified.

Review and revise, if necessary the noise action plan.

Year Five (2017 to 2018):

Review the success of the action plan

Long Term Strategy

Donegal Local Authorities will seek to address environmental noise from major roads in the County, will endeavour to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist and will have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process (within the confines of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)) to endeavour to ensure that future developments include provisions that will avoid or prevent any harmful effects on the occupants of the proposed development , including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise that may arise from major roads that abuts the development, in the interest of residential amenity and public health.

Financial Information

Donegal County Council is in the process of trying to identify funding to implement the five year programme. No financial information is available at this time.

Provisions envisaged for evaluating the implementation and the results of the action plan

Donegal County Council as the APA will consider providing an update, locally, on a periodic basis that takes account of any changes in local circumstances.

To date no monitoring or verification of the number of peoples affected has been undertaken so the expected outcome or reduction in the number of people affected by any proposed measures cannot be verified. This will begin in 2013or 2014 depending on the identification of budgets.