




Ein cyf/Our ref MA-(L)/LG/0683/17

Huw Irranca-Davies AM  
Chair  
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
[SeneddCLA@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddCLA@assembly.wales)

 October 2017

Dear Huw

Thank you for your letter of 16 October, seeking clarification on whether the Welsh Ministers made and adopted a noise map by the end of June 2017, as required by the Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006, which transpose the 2002 Environmental Noise Directive into Welsh law.

As discussed in the Welsh Government's earlier response to the Committee's comments on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Assessments of Local Well-being) Regulations 2017, a tension exists between the requirements of the Directive to, on the one hand, make and adopt noise maps by the end of June, and, on the other hand, include the previous calendar year's data. This is an issue because some of the previous calendar year's input data, produced by the Department for Transport, which is required to calculate the noise levels, only becomes available for use shortly before the June deadline.

Calculating noise levels at the residences of several hundred thousand people living around more than 1,500 km of major roads across Wales is a significant undertaking which takes time to complete following receipt of all the necessary input data. These practical issues, which are beyond our control, meant the map could not be produced in accordance with the June deadline required in regulation 7(2) of the 2006 Regulations.

However, the scoping and project definition were carried out well in advance, in late 2015 (<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/noiseandnuisance/environmentalnoise/noisemonitoringmapping/third-round-noise-mapping/?lang=en>), the contractors were appointed in early 2016, and the final specification for the work was agreed between my officials and the noise mapping contractors and all the input data gathered ready for processing before the end of June 2017.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I would like to assure the Committee the revised noise maps are on course to be finalised and reported to the European Commission on time, by the end of December 2017. We also aim to publish the revised noise maps on the Lle website before the end of the year. Until this happens, the 2012 noise maps remain live and are considered representative of current noise levels at most locations.

Of the first four rounds of noise mapping required under the Directive (2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022), the first round only mapped a limited number of sources and the fourth round will have to use a new, harmonised calculation method. Only the second and third rounds (2012 and 2017) offer the possibility of comparing two consecutive rounds of noise maps produced in the same way, identifying changes in noise exposure over a 5-year period. I trust the Committee will therefore understand why it is important for us to produce the new noise maps to the same standards as the 2012 round, in order to provide the best possible evidence base to inform the new noise action plan for Wales.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Griffiths'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

Lesley Griffiths AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

October 2017

Dear Lesley

**Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Assessments of Local Well-being) Regulations 2017**

The Committee considered the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Assessments of Local Well-being) Regulations 2017 at our meeting on 9 October 2017, along with the Government response to the merits point identified in relation to the requirements for noise maps.

During our consideration, attention was drawn to the Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Regulations).

Regulation 7 of the 2006 Regulations imposes a clear statutory duty on the Welsh Ministers to make and adopt noise maps. Regulation 7 required the Welsh Ministers to make and adopt a noise map by the end of June 2017.

In the circumstances, I would be grateful for clarification on whether the Welsh Ministers made and adopted a noise map by the end of June 2017, as required by the 2006 Regulations.

Yours sincerely



**Huw Irranca-Davies**

Chair

