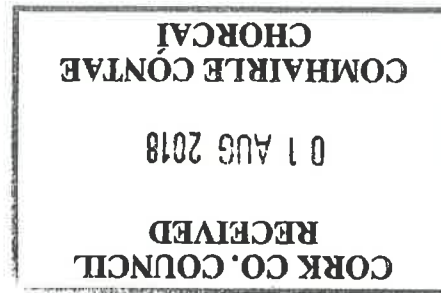




Ms. Nicola Radley  
Cork County Council  
County Hall  
Cork  
T12 R2NC



31 July 2018

Ref: MB-2018 129

Dear Ms. Radley,

I refer to your correspondence regarding a resolution of Cork County Council requesting a review of national environmental noise legislation. Firstly I would like to apologise for the delay in responding, this response should have issued on 14<sup>th</sup> March, unfortunately due to a technical issue this was not possible.

The Government does not currently have any plans to undertake a comprehensive review as requested, and it is not part of the Programme for a Partnership Government. Notwithstanding this fact, there are a number of developments in the environmental noise area which may address some of the concerns of the Members of Cork County Council.

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[www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie) or in hard copy upon request.

D'fhonn is go gcuirfeair feidhmeanna na Roinne i gcrích, agus seirbhísí ar fáil, ceanglaíonn an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil go soláthróidh custaiméirí sonraí pearsanta áirithe. Féadfar do shonraí pearsanta a mhalartú le Ranna Riallais eile agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile in imthosca áirithe de réir dlí. Tugtar sonraí iomlána sa bhFógra um Priobháideacht Sonraí

atá ar fáil ar [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie), nó i bhfoirm chruachóipe ama iarraidh sin.



There are no plans to introduce statutory limits for noise, however the recently published National Planning Framework 2040 includes the following national policy objective:

**National Policy Objective 65** Promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through national planning guidance and Noise Action Plans.

The development of national planning guidance on noise is something that my Department will be bringing forward with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other stakeholders in this context.

In relation to assessment, the Crosses Directive (Commission Directive (EU) 2015/996) falls due for transposition by the end of this year. The Directive will establish common and standardised noise assessment methods for the purposes of the Environmental Noise Directive – END (Directive 2002/49/EC). I fully expect that Ireland will transpose the Directive in time for the 31 December deadline.

In addition, my colleague the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport is bringing forward legislation to give effect to Regulation (EU) No 598/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a Balanced Approach.

With regard to the consistency between noise mapping bodies and action planning authorities, if there are any particular areas of concern my officials in the Air Quality, Noise and Radiation Division would be very interested to hear of them prior to formulating any legislative position. My Department also participates in the national



END steering group chaired by the EPA who manages the noise mapping and action planning process.

Existing legislative provisions in relation to nuisance noise may be of assistance to individuals in relation to low frequency noise and noise from ports. A guide on for local authorities dealing with Noise complaints was prepared in 2016 and is available at the following link:

<https://dcca.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/noise-pollution/typical-noise-pollution/Pages/default.aspx>

In addition, the wind energy planning guidelines are currently being revised by DHPLG and the issue of low frequency noise is included within this approach.

In relation to quiet areas, I note that in recent years Dublin City Council has designated eight Quiet Areas. Council officials may wish to make contact with their counterparts in the Traffic Noise & Air Quality Unit of Dublin City Council with a view to sharing their experience of the process.

Finally, you may be interested to know that there are currently two EPA funded research projects underway on noise, one on implementation of the Crossos Directive, and the other on noise and health, which will provide useful material to inform policy directions on noise.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Naughten, T.D.  
Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment

