

Noise and Health



The WHO reports that long-term exposure to environmental noise (from road traffic, railways, aircraft and industry) contributes to about 48,000 new cases of heart disease and 12,000 premature deaths every year in Europe.



The EPA-funded noise-health research project will provide an initial review of the relationship between environmental noise and health/wellbeing in Ireland. It will be published in 2022.



In 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region. It sets out how noise pollution in our towns and cities is increasing,

and particularly from transport sources such as road traffic, railways, and aircraft.



Legislation in Ireland requires that strategic noise maps are developed every 5 years. The maps set out the noise exposure in a given area from particular noise sources. These sources include major

roads, major rail, major airports, & major agglomerations.



Noise Action Plans are designed to manage these noise issues and effects (priority areas for action), and prevent and reduce environmental noise.

In Ireland, noise complaints normally fall under four main categories; (i) entertainment, (ii) domestic/neighbourhood noise, (iii) industrial/ commercial activities and (iv) transport-related noise.



Local Authorities typically record around 1,500 – 2,000 noise complaints each year.

A Guide to the Noise Regulations set outs the steps that you can take if you experience nuisance caused by noise.







The 2006 wind energy development guidelines are under revision. The revised guidelines, to be published in 2021, will take account of technological advancements to protect residents and communities living beside new wind energy developments.

National guidance on planning and noise will be required to implement Objective 65 of the National Planning Framework 2040: to promote the pro-active management



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of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life.

Fingal County Council has been appointed as the Competent Authority to regulate noise generated by aircraft activity at Dublin Airport under Regulation 598/2014 (balanced approach).