

PINS NOTE 07/2013r2

To: All Inspectors

Date of Issue: 23 May 2013

Currency: review at 6 months after issue

Last updated: 10 February 2015 – to draw attention to the recently issued final 2 parts Supplementary Guidance Notes to accompany the Good Practice Guide and the IoA Statement on Wind Farm Noise Assessment published in December 2014.

IOA 'Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise'

Action

1. The Institute of Acoustics (IOA) published the final version of the 'Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise'¹ on 20 May 2013. This guidance acts as a supplement to ETSU-R-97 and has been endorsed by the DECC SoS in his letter² of 20 May 2013. As such Inspectors should attach the same weight to the good practice guidance as for ETSU-R-97 itself. Current planning policy suggests that the good practice guidance can be considered a material consideration by reference to the NPPF³, which states that '*...In assessing the likely impacts of potential wind energy development when identifying suitable areas, and in determining planning applications...planning authorities should follow the approach set out in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure'...* Paragraph 2.7.56 of the National Policy Statement (EN-3)⁴, states that "*...the applicant's assessment of noise from the operation of wind turbines...should use ETSU-R-97, taking account of the latest industry good practice....*;" footnote 32 to paragraph 2.7.55 provides that ETSU-R-97 includes any supplementary guidance to it endorsed by the Government.
2. In July 2014 the IoA published four Supplementary Guidance Notes (SGNs) to the Good Practice Guide, to provide additional information for undertaking wind turbine noise assessments using the ETSU-R-97 document. These are part of a series of six Guidance Notes to support the Good Practice Guide. **SGNs 1 & 2 were published in September 2014, which completes the suite of guidance.** The SGNs are listed below with links:

¹ [A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise](#), IoA May 2013.

² [SoS letter to the IoA President](#), DECC, 20 May 2013.

³ [Paragraph 97, Footnote 17 – National Planning Policy Framework](#), DCLG, March 2012

⁴ [National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure \(EN-3\)](#), DECC, July 2011.

[SGN 1 – Data collection;](#)

[SGN 2 – Data processing & derivation of ETSU-R-97 background curves;](#)

[SGN 3 – Sound power level data;](#)

[SGN 4 – Wind shear;](#)

[SGN 5 – Post completion measurements;](#)

[SGN 6 – Noise propagation over water for on-shore wind turbines.](#)

3. The good practice guidance will be referred to in wind farm/turbine appeals submissions and events, as may the SGNs from now on, and Inspectors working on such cases should be aware of the existence and the scope of the documents. It is for the Inspector to decide whether to seek the views of the parties concerning the materiality of the SGNs on any undetermined wind turbine cases. On 19 December 2014 the IoA issued a statement⁵, explaining its role in respect of the assessment of wind farm noise. The IoA drew particular attention in the statement to the setting of noise limits, which the IoA are not involved with and are a matter for Government to decide.

Background

4. DECC commissioned the IOA to take forward the recommendations in the Hayes McKenzie report⁶, published in April 2011, which highlighted the potential problems in the way local authorities deal with noise assessments from wind turbine proposals. The IoA issued a discussion document⁷ and associated consultation document⁸ in July 2012 to facilitate discussion on further development of a good practice guidance document on the 'Application of ETSU-R-97 and PINS fed into the consultation. The good practice guide is the final stage outcome of the consultation.
5. The aim of the Good Practice Guide is to set out what is currently considered good practice in the application of ETSU-R-97 assessment methodology for all wind turbine developments above 50kW, in particular where this has evolved since the publication of ETSU-R-97 in 1997. The guide covers technical matters of acoustics which the IoA believe represents current good practice in the assessment of noise from wind turbines, to enable a decision maker to make an informed decision when assessing compliance with guidelines in ETSU-R-97. The guide does not either endorse the noise limits set within ETSU-R-97 as this is a matter of Government policy or discuss the potential health effects.
6. The Guide is divided into sections as follows:
- 1 Context;
 - 2 Background data collection;

⁵ [Institute of Acoustics Statement in respect of Wind Farm Noise Assessment](#), IoA, Dec 2014

⁶ [Analysis of How Noise Impacts are Considered in the Determination of Wind Farm Planning Applications](#), HMPL, April 2011

⁷ Discussion Document on 'A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for Wind Turbine Noise Assessment' IoA, July 2012

⁸ Consultation Document on the 'Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for Wind Turbine Noise Assessment' IoA, July 2012

- 3 Data analysis;
- 4 Noise predictions;
- 5 Cumulative issues;
- 6 Reporting results of the Noise Assessment;
- 7 Other Matters (incl. planning condition, amplitude modulation);

Annex A Glossary of Terms & Reference;

Annex B Example Planning Condition.

- 7. The intention is to have a regular review of the good practice guide with a view to publishing an updated version when significant changes occur.
- 8. PINS notes 20/2011 & 17/2012 are cancelled.
- 9. Please contact XXXX if you have any queries on this Note generally or XXXX if it relates to a casework matter. If the matter relates to a technical noise issue, contact XXXX.

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Acting Chief Planning Inspector