



Department  
for Transport

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Dear Mr Fleming,

Thank you for your request, received on 2 June, about the Department's noise enforcement research. Your correspondence was passed to the International Vehicle Standards division as we are responsible for the acoustic camera trials.

The Department's roadside noise enforcement research, conducted by Atkins-Jacobs Joint Venture, was completed in two phases. The first phase looked at existing technologies and policing strategies for noise enforcement and was published in June 2019. The phase 1 report can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/roadside-vehicle-noise-measurement-study-enforcement-and-technology>.

In the second phase, acoustic cameras were selected as technology to be trialled, with the aim of assessing the prevalence of excessively noisy vehicles. The decision to undertake trials came as a recommendation from the phase 1 report and following consultation with enforcement authorities on the current weaknesses of vehicle noise enforcement.

The prototype device included a combination of microphone and camera, in conjunction with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), to enable excessively noisy vehicles to be detected from the roadside as they passed by. No enforcement action was taken as a result of these trials due to the early stages and prototype nature of the technology.

Thank you for taking the time to write in and for your interest in the roadside noise enforcement research.

Yours sincerely

Mike Levet  
Department for Transport