



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6585
Date: 10/06/2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Publication of 2011 strategic noise maps prepared under the Environmental Noise Directive.

Thank you for your request for information about publication of the 2011 strategic noise maps which we received on 12th May 2014. As you know, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). Thank you also for your related correspondence of 13th April 2014, which is also addressed by the information provided below.

I enclose, below, a copy of the information you requested:

- **Why have the strategic noise maps for 2011 not been published yet?**

The strategic noise mapping in England was completed in 2012. The primary output is an estimation of the numbers of people affected by different levels of transport noise. We were keen to use the 2011 census data so that our estimates were based on up to date population information. Those data only became available during 2013. Some results were published during the consultation stage for the noise action plans in July 2013. The full results of the strategic noise mapping for major roads, major railways and for road and railway sources in agglomerations can be found in the formally adopted noise action plans published in January this year. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-action-plans-large-urban-areas-roads-and-railways>.

We want to ensure that any data published is easily accessible and useable and at the same time meets the requirements of the Government's digital publication policy in this area. We are currently looking at new technological approaches and hope to agree a platform for publication very soon.



- **When will these noise maps be published?**

We anticipate being able to make further data available later this year. We want to ensure that any data published is easily accessible and useable and at the same time meets the requirements of the Government's digital publication policy in this area. We are currently looking at new technological approaches and hope to agree a platform for publication very soon.

- **Will the maps be published on Defra's website?**

As implied above, a decision is yet to be made regarding the form in which we will make further data available. Whatever the outcome, we will provide the appropriate links on the Defra area of the gov.uk website.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours

Head of Technical & Evidence Team
Noise & Nuisance
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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Annex A

Copyright

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Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF