



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
Area 4a
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

T: 03459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Our ref: FOI2019/01000
14 February 2019

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Calculation Method for Computer Modelling Techniques used to identify Noise Important Area (NIA ID-7877)

Thank you for your request for information of 17th January about the method of calculation for the computer modelling techniques used to produce the noise maps for the identification of Noise Important Area (NIA) ID-7877. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The same computer modelling techniques are used for the identification of important areas throughout England – there are no techniques specific to NIA ID-7877. The method for calculating the noise levels is specified in the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006, as amended, found here (in particular, Schedule 2, paragraph 2):

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2238/contents/made>

Further information on how this method was implemented can be found throughout the following linked documents/reports below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-data-strategic-noise-mapping>

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=19781&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=extrium&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

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

As the information you have requested is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format, regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.



Information disclosed in response to the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and 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 the address below.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4a, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: InformationRequests@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's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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