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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Noise and soundscape action plan 2018-2023

Date of issue: 11 July 2018

Action required: Responses by 3 October 2018

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview

The Welsh Government is inviting comments on its draft noise and soundscape action plan for the period 2018-2023. It replaces the current noise action plan for Wales, adopted in 2013. Environmental noise legislation requires national noise action plans to be reviewed and revised, where necessary, at least every five years.

Noise means unwanted or harmful sound, while the term “soundscape” refers to the acoustic environment as perceived, experienced or understood by people in any given context. This includes beneficial and neutral sounds as well as noise.

The noise and soundscape action plan is the Welsh Government’s central noise policy document, and has been produced collaboratively with local authorities and other public bodies. It outlines the Welsh public sector’s strategic policy direction in relation to noise and soundscape management for the next five years.

Besides stressing the importance of considering soundscapes in the round, in addition to controlling levels of noise, the main differences between the draft 2018 plan and the current plan are as follows:

- The draft plan aligns noise and soundscape policy in Wales with the cross-cutting framework established by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- The draft plan encourages greater integration between noise and air quality management activities by public bodies, so as to achieve multiple benefits.
- The draft plan highlights the proposed updates to national planning policy and guidance in Wales that relate to noise and soundscape.

The Welsh Government would welcome your views on the proposed content of the 2018 noise and soundscape action plan.

Please note that the accompanying document, “Noise and soundscape action plan 2018-2023 – consultation draft” should be read prior to answering the consultation questions.

How to respond

The closing date for the consultation is 3 October 2018. You can reply in any of the following ways.

E-mail:

Please complete the consultation response form and send it to:

environmentalnoise@gov.wales

Post:

Please complete the consultation response form and send it to the address below:

Noise and soundscape action plan consultation
Environment and Communities Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Contact details**For further information:**

Address: As above

E-mail: As above

Tel: 03000 259145

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation. If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data holds about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or
0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

E-mail:

Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

E-mail / telephone number:

Your address:

Question 1: The noise and soundscape action plan is the Welsh Government's central noise policy document, and has been produced collaboratively with local authorities and other public bodies. It outlines the Welsh public sector's strategic policy direction in relation to noise and soundscape management for the next five years. Do you agree with the actions and long-term strategy proposed in the draft noise and soundscape action plan? If not, what do you think the Welsh Government and other public bodies should be doing differently?

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the content of the draft noise and soundscape action plan, besides the proposed actions and long-term strategy?

Question 3: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues, which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: