

Advice on findings of the Hayes McKenzie report on noise arising from Wind Farms

In 2004 the DTI commissioned Hayes McKenzie to report on claims that infrasound or low frequency noise (LFN)¹ emitted by wind turbine generators (WTGs) were causing health effects. Hayes McKenzie reported to DTI in May 2006. The report concluded that there is no evidence of health effects arising from infrasound or low frequency noise generated by wind turbines.

The Hayes McKenzie work has mistakenly been reported as recommending a total review of ETSU-R-97². The purpose of this statement is to clarify the Government's position with regard to the LFN report and the action being taken by the Noise Working Group.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has written to all Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate to confirm that the advice in PPS22 and its Companion Guide that ETSU-R-97 should be used for the assessment and rating of noise from wind farms should continue to be followed.

The Hayes McKenzie report noted that a phenomenon known as Aerodynamic Modulation (AM) was in some isolated circumstances occurring in ways not anticipated by ETSU-R-97. The report stated that concerns apparently relating to this phenomenon have been expressed in relation to only 5 out of 126 wind farms in the UK.

Government has taken the view that more work is required to determine whether or not AM is an issue which may require attention in the context of the rating advice in ETSU.

To assist with this work Government has brought together an advisory group (the NWG) drawn from acoustic experts, including former members of the Noise Working Group, to provide a peer review and guidance in the issue of AM. It is not within the terms of reference of the NWG to examine the assessment and rating advice in ETSU-R-97 beyond the issue of Aerodynamic Modulation. If in time it is felt appropriate to reflect AM in the context of the ETSU rating advice further information will be issued.

November 2006

URN 06/2162

1 www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/publications/page31267.html

2 *Page 97 ETSU-R-97*