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Dear Professor Shield

RE: Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise

Thank you for your letter of 15 May about the publication of the Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the assessment of Wind Turbine Noise.

As you know, Government policy on assessing the impacts of proposed onshore wind farm developments is set out in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure, NPS EN-3. Paragraphs 2.7.55 and 2.7.56 of NPS EN-3 refer to ETSU-R-97 and state that developers should use it, while taking account of the latest industry good practice, including any guidance on good practice published from time to time by Government. Further, footnotes to 32 and 34 to these paragraphs state:

³² *All references to ETSU-R-97 in this section should be taken to include any successor or supplementary guidance to it endorsed by the Government.*


³⁴ *In July 2010, DECC commissioned an analysis of the application of ETSU-R-97 by LPAs and developers from Hayes McKenzie. Their peer-reviewed report on this analysis was published in [June] 2011. It concluded that the methodology in ETSU-R-97 was inconsistently applied and recommended better guidance on best practice for developers and planning authorities. Government is working with industry to draft better guidance.*

As you are aware, my Department invited the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) to set up a working group to take forward the relevant recommendations of the Hayes McKenzie report on "Analysis of How Noise Impacts are considered in the Determination of Wind Farm Planning Applications", as referred to in footnote 34 to NPS EN-3. The aim of the group was to review the available evidence, and to produce good practice guidance on wind turbine noise assessment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your work in producing this Good Practice Guide, which will provide a valuable technical supplement to ETSU-R-97, and in turn help to improve the consistency of its application in the consideration of wind farm

projects. The Good Practice Guide is not being published by Government: I appreciate that the IOA needed to ensure the Good Practice Guide was produced independently of Government, and my Department welcomed the opportunity to be kept up to date on the guide's progress. However, in view of the careful, expert work and consultation that has informed the Good Practice Guide, I am happy to accept that it represents current industry good practice, and to endorse it as a supplement to ETSU-R-97.

Yours,



EDWARD DAVEY