



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate F - Strategy
ENV.F.3 - Knowledge, Risks & Urban Environment

Brussels, 28/11/2014

Subject: Your e-mail of 9 November 2014

Dear Mr Dinsdale,

Thank you for your e-mail of 9 November regarding noise from a new road nearby your house and place of work.

As you have correctly identified, one of the main instruments to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action in the European Union is Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, i.e. the so called Environmental Noise Directive.

A directive is an EU legislative act that sets out mandatory objectives that all EU countries must achieve. A directive is not directly applicable in a Member State, but has to be 'transposed', i.e. translated into national legislation. The Environmental Noise Directive was transposed in the UK through the Environmental Noise Regulations of 2006, separately for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. You may find the Regulations on this page of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/environment/background.htm>

The Environmental Noise Directive requires EU Member States to prepare noise maps and action plans for agglomerations with more than 100,000 inhabitants, major roads with more than three million vehicle passages a year, as well as major railways, airports, and sites of industrial activities. As you have not provided us with details on the location of the road in question, we are unfortunately unable to identify whether it is covered by the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive.

Similarly, regarding your question on environmental impact assessment (EIA), from the limited information you have provided we are unable to determine whether an EIA under Directive 2011/92/EU was mandatory for the road in question. In general terms, if an EIA is done for such a project, the results of the consultations with the public and the environmental authorities as well as the information gathered in the framework of an EIA procedure shall be taken into consideration when the project is authorised.

Mr Brian Dinsdale
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Finally, regarding your question on the size of aggregate to be used in road construction, there is no legislation at EU level on this issue. However you may wish to check whether this question is covered by any national legislation in the United Kingdom.

I am sorry that we cannot help more on this occasion, and I do hope that the matter can eventually be resolved to your satisfaction through dialogue with the local and national authorities.

Yours Sincerely,



Nicholas Banfield
Head of Unit