

[REDACTED]
Your ref: LM26645

Layla Moran MP
layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

[REDACTED]
Regional Director South East
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4LZ

18 December 2020

Dear Layla Moran

Noise at Wolvercote

Thank you for your email of 8 December 2020 enquiring about noise on the A34 and the way it is monitored. I hope this explains how we monitor noise on our roads and why we need to prioritise funding to the most affected areas.

The way in which we manage traffic noise issues on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) is driven by the requirements of the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

These regulations require strategic noise maps and action plans to be undertaken on a five-year cycle. [REDACTED]

As part of the Environmental Noise Directive, Defra published 'Round 1' strategic noise maps for England's roads in 2008 and the Noise Action Plans in 2010. The action plans set out guidelines for managing noise rather than proposing specific solutions and the strategic noise maps established the locations of 'Important Areas' that are impacted from major sources of noise and therefore must be investigated.

The SRN is one of these major sources of noise and the 'Important Areas' established by Defra represent areas that contain the top 1% of the population exposed to high noise levels from major roads. Defra has now completed the latest version (Round 3) of the Noise Action Plans and these were published on 2 July 2019. This location has not been identified as an Important area.

For more information on how the strategic noise mapping was created, please see following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-noise-mapping-2019>

We are unable to undertake local monitoring or recommend ways for individuals to take their own measurements of noise, as the measurements will not provide a genuine or comparable representation of the long-term levels of noise from road traffic. Noise measurements only give a broad indication or 'snap-shot' of the traffic noise levels that residents are exposed to, especially when surveys are only carried out over short periods. We only take noise measurements to establish the current noise climate in the locations immediately before major work is carried out on the network, for example when a road renewal or improvement scheme is undertaken. These measurements are taken under specific conditions that can then be used to validate noise levels calculated during the design of the improvement scheme using the standard UK methodology set out in 'Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (1988 version)'. This document is available here:

<https://www.thenbs.com/PublicationIndex/documents/details?Pub=DOT&DocID=200484>

This also ensures that we take a consistent approach to comparing noise levels between different areas of the country by minimising distortions caused by weather conditions or unusual traffic patterns on any day.

If you would like further information, please contact the route manager for the A34, Greg Stone who will be pleased to respond. He can be contacted by email at greg.stone@highwaysengland.co.uk. Alternatively, our correspondence address is Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LZ.

Yours sincerely



Regional Director South East