

An NRA approach to utilising outputs from the 2012 Noise Research Call

Ian Holmes
Principal Noise Advisor

Highways England

- Highways England operates, maintains and improves the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England
- SRN is 6,900 km long (2% of English Roads)
- SRN carries 1/3rd of all vehicle miles
- SRN carries 2/3^{rds} of all HGV miles



Road Investment Strategy

- Highways England took over operation of the Strategic Road Network on 1 April, as part of the Government's 'Road Investment Strategy' (RIS)
- Highways England has a number of KPIs and PIs
- For noise, 1,150 Important Areas (IAs), out of a total of around 2,500, need to be addressed between 2015 and 2020
- Longer term aim by 2040 ‘..over 90% fewer people to be impacted by noise from the Strategic Road Network.’

Highways England Noise Advisor Role

- Ownership of road noise assessment methodology (together with colleagues from elsewhere in UK)
- Manage Noise Policy within organisation
- Provide advice to our Network Improvement and Maintenance Schemes
- Stakeholder Management
- Responsible for delivery of Road Investment Strategy KPI
- Research Procurement

Noise Call 2012 summary

- FOREVER: Impact of changes to vehicle fleet
- QUESTIM: Comparison of mitigation measures
- ON AIR: Examining Assessment Methods
- DISTANCE: Investigating innovative noise mitigation measures

Using 2012 Noise Call outputs within Highways England

- Policy and noise assessment method (DMRB) updates:
 - Utilise information from ON-AIR to ensure DMRB takes account of best practice
 - Utilise outputs of FOREVER to ascertain whether our future years' assessments need to take account of changes to vehicle fleet.
 - Use of QUESTIM tools for cost-benefit analysis for noise mitigation

Using 2012 Noise Call outputs within Highways England

- Provision of Advice
 - Utilise information from ON-AIR to review management of noise during improvement projects and maintenance works
 - Using DISTANCE outputs to identify innovative mitigation measures that may be suitable for widespread use on the network

Using 2012 Noise Call outputs within Highways England

- Stakeholder Management
 - Take account of ON-AIR stakeholder management guidance
 - Using QUESTIM outputs to help make noise information easily available to our local asset managers, to facilitate community engagement
 - Provide information on innovative measures identified by DISTANCE
 - Use project findings to justify decisions to stakeholders

Using 2012 Noise Call outputs within Highways England

- Delivery of KPI
 - Improving the ‘suite’ of mitigation measures available to us using the outputs of DISTANCE
 - Take account of ON-AIR noise action planning advice
 - Using QUESTIM outputs to help ensure the best option is chosen for each Important Area
 - Using all projects to ensure that the ‘noise mitigation fund’ is spent to obtain the maximum benefit

Using 2012 Noise Call outputs within Highways England

- Research
 - Limited budget
 - Provides an indication of how we could spend the money to result in real improvements for those that live near to our network?

Summary

- Participation on the PEB has been a worthwhile exercise
- Projects have drawn together best practice from across Europe
- Allows NRAs to easily identify where assessment and management of highway noise can be improved
- Will lead to better outcomes for those exposed to highway noise across Europe.