

Appendix to CNMA to NMA Guidance

http://www.scottishnoisemapping.org/downloads/guidance/Technical_Guidance_CNMA2NMA.pdf

FAQs Question and Answers

There are a number of instances where coming to a decision on whether to declare a NMA is not straight - forward and a decision will have to be made using professional judgement. The following are questions that have come up and in order to ensure consistency of approach the answers to these questions.

1. Where the windowless gable end of flats are oriented 90 degrees to the CNMA does this mean that the CNMA can be discounted?

Where these are flats with no private outside space then it might be legitimate to discount. (Bearing in mind the directive is not about internal noise levels) In coming to a conclusion decision makers should take into account; the noise levels e.g. are they particularly high or low especially at the windows of habitable rooms nearest to the noise source? Do the properties have a quiet façade? Is there a hospital or school in the vicinity?

2. Do we consider the 'practicalities of protecting' versus the 'theory of protecting'?

It is the theory, it may not be possible to determine a practical solution to the problem at present but Local Authorities and others may wish to make sure the problem is not exacerbated in the longer term.

3. Should rail CNMA's should be included as a standalone category with the top 1% identified for rail only, given that rail CNMAs can have less noise impact compared to noise from major roads.

We would need evidence to justify any change to the current guidance. Article 8 of the directive requires Action Plans to be drawn up for places near the major railways. We can review our guidance for round 3 if there is good evidence to support it. We are however bound by the terms of the directive.

4. Should buildings with double glazing be sufficient to warrant a CNMA not progressing to an NMA?

No. It is an external noise level. Just because a building has double glazing, this does not mean that the glazing offers suitable noise protection. If a development were designed at the planning stage to take account of the noise then a check on the planning consent and conditions could be sufficient to screen out a CNMA.

5. On a site inspection a new road surface has been laid, how do we know if this has been taken into account in the noise model?

People checking the CNMAs have been given pdf layered maps of each CNMA and these maps explain (amongst other attributes) what type of road surface has been used in the noise model. Some further investigation may be required in order to determine if the new road surface is likely to be quieter than that predicted. It is possible that the roads authority has specified a low noise surface as a mitigation measure for noise.

6. Would ground floor shops be included in the building prioritisation score?

The model looks at residential address point data so in theory no. If there is evidence to the contrary then that may be down to errors in the data fed into the model. If this happens then it should be recorded and the CNMA re-evaluated.

7. Could a high BPS score influence an NMA declaration for a location which has relatively low noise?

This depends on what is meant by 'relatively', it is designed to ensure that we don't just tackle the high noise levels but those where the greatest number are likely to be annoyed. None should be below 55Lden.

8. Should Round 1 NMAs continue into Round 2?

Yes unless there is good reason for the NMA to be removed. As such, the CNMA to NMA report should highlight clearly that the location is already a declared NMA from END Round 1.

9. If the data used in the model is thought to be questionable, do we ask AECOM to rerun the model for a particular CNMA location?

If new data was obtained, then the model could be rerun by AECOM for a specific location.

10. Should there be consistency across the agglomerations in terms of having roughly the same percentage of NMAs

No. One city could be more noisy than another.

11. If a CNMA has some buildings fully mitigated and some that are not does it proceed to a NMA and what %.

This has to be a professional judgement call based on the particular circumstances.