

Reporting Template for Noise Action Plan Progress Reports for 2024

This reporting template should be used by local authorities for reporting to the EPA on progress with actions taken under noise action plans during 2024. It should be submitted to the EPA by the 28th February 2025.

This reporting requirement stems from the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018, S.I. No. 549 of 2018, (the Regulations), as amended¹, where under Regulation 12(10) there is a requirement for Action Planning Authorities (APA) to submit an annual report to the EPA.

Action Plans - Regulation 12. (10) From 18 July 2019 Action planning authorities shall report to the Agency on all actions taken under each action plan or revised action plan in the previous 12 months.

The updates provided in this reporting template will also be used by the EPA for work on Local Authority Performance Framework (LAPF) for Environmental Enforcement. This framework includes the Environmental Noise Directive Activities (ENDs).

Further details and background information that should be read in conjunction with completing this reporting template are provided in the Appendix below.

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Date of submission to EPA	27 June 2025

Confirmation of annual report

This annual report provides details of all actions taken under the local authority noise action plan in the preceding calendar year, specifically during 2024.

Signed:



¹ The European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, S.I. No. 663/2021.
<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/663/made/en/print>

1. Provide link(s) to access the Round 3, and where completed the Round 4 noise action plan, published by the Action Planning Authority (i.e. local authority)².

[Wexford County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 | Wexford County Council](#)

2. Provide summary list of actions set out within the noise action plan, and indicate any progress made during the previous calendar year. Where relevant, further details of progress on implementing actions can be provided in answer to subsequent questions.

Action #	Summary of action	Summary of progress on action during previous calendar year
WXC_M1	Support the Development of National Noise and Other Related Policy and Guidance	Wexford County Council encourage the integration of noise considerations into the ongoing process of policy and guidance development, and actively promote existing Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the Department of Transport (DoT) and other bodies with policies and guidance related to noise.
WXC_M2	Noise Action Plan Working Group	Member of the Noise Action Working Group and participate in Noise Action Workshops with the EPA. Wexford County Council created an In-house Noise Working Group with relevant staff members in the Planning Section, Environment Section and Roads Section with the aim of meeting bi-annually to implement and deliver the Noise Action Plan.
WXC_M3	Annual Report to EPA	Submit annual report to EPA was delay due to late changeover of lead contact.
WXC_M4	Continued Investigation and Management of Noise Complaints	The noise team investigates all noise complaints received and in accordance with RMCEI inspection plan, submitted to EPA on 28 February 2025. The noise team is working with a consultant to identify a high time low frequency hum in the Clonard Business area of Wexford Town. Measurements did not

² For some Local authorities (LAs), their Round 4 (R4) NAPs may not have been finalised until late 2024 or early 2025. These LAs should therefore be reporting annual progress on their Round 3 (R3) NAP. These LAs may not be reporting progress on their identified PIAs until 28th February 2026.

For some other LAs who finalised their R4 NAP in Q3 2024, then they may be reporting annual progress that straddles across two plans (R3, & R4) in 2024. For Q1-2 they should be reporting progress on their R3 NAP, while for Q3-4 they may be reporting progress on their R4 NAP.

		locate the source, however a local resident has been asked to keep a log and to note the wind direction to assist a planned re-survey.
WXC_M5	Stakeholder Collaboration	All national updates and information distributed from the National Noise Steering Group and EPA workshops are shared with our In-house Noise Working Group which consists of staff from Environment, Planning and Road Sections meeting each quarter. Staff collaborated on investigating noise complaints and implementing the action plan, particularly the completion of the Noise Action Plan for publication in 2024.
WXC_M6	Ongoing Community Engagement	The draft Noise Action Plan was published on 19 December 2024. The final Noise Action Plan was published on 31 March 2025 and associated AA Screening and SEA Screening which are available on Wexford County Council website, Wexford County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 Wexford County Council Annual Reports on the implementation will be provided to the EPA and made available on the council's webpage.
WXC_M7	Planning Application Advice, Conditioning and Enforcement - (Prevention)	The Planning Section of Wexford County Council refer any planning application with an environmental consideration to the Environment Section for comment. The Environment Section review, assess and recommend conditions where appropriate back the Planning Section. In 2024 there were 1230 applications referred to the Environment section of which all applications relating to commercial premises, quarries or waste permitted facilities were specifically assessed for noise considerations. All planning applications are routinely referred to the Roads Section where a site report is returned to the Planning Section. The granting of planning permission may attach conditions requiring the management and regulation of noise emitted, including preventative or abatement measures. These conditions would apply to both the construction stage and the operational phase of the site. The conditions may require noise monitoring is undertaken during the construction and operational phases to

		demonstrate the specific noise emissions are not breached.
WXC_M8	Support the Implementation of Other Relevant Plans, Projects and Strategies - (Mitigation)	<p>The elected members of Wexford County Council were advised in 2024 the Environment Section was commencing the review and development of the Noise Action Plan, detailing the aims and steps in preparing the plan.</p> <p>On completion of the draft Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 with the associate Appropriate Screening Reports members of the public were invited to make submissions through either the council's public consultation webpage or via email or in writing. Copies of the draft Noise Action Plan, SEA and AA Screening were available to view through our online webpage, advertised in the local papers and at all the public libraries throughout the county.</p> <p>The submission period was from 9th January 2025 until 13th February 2025. One submission was received from the public; external stakeholders were consulted of which no submissions were received. The submission related to traffic noise through Rosslare Harbour was addressed in section 11 of the Noise Action Plan. No submissions were received in relation to the SEA and AA. The Wexford County Council Noise Action Plan 2024 -2028, assisted by Logika Group, t/a Air Quality Consultants Ltd was published on 31 March 2025, and a copy of the Noise Action Plan and associated reports including a link to Round 4 mapping is available to view on the Council's website Wexford County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 Wexford County Council</p> <p>The EPA Return WXC DF7_10 was completed and returned to the EPA as required under European compliance.</p> <p>The In-house Noise Working Group was put in place with the intention to meet bi-annually to support and implement the plan, projects and strategies.</p>

		The Annual Noise Action Report submitted to the EPA will be posted on the Council's website to inform the public. Updates on the progress of the Noise Action Plan will be included in the CE's report to members at least twice a year.
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Note: (1) Use additional rows if relevant, (2) use additional table if there were two NAPs covering the relevant year

3. Provide details of any Priority Important Areas (PIAs) which have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year^{3, 4}

To date no work have occurred within the 9 Priority Important Areas throughout the county.

4. Where Priority Important Areas have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year, provide the following details, for each priority area addressed (or costed)⁵:

Priority or PIA addressed	N/A
Noise reduction measures introduced	
Estimate of the number of people benefiting from noise reduction	
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	
Budget (if available)	
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	

5. Provide details of any other areas, which have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year, where relevant.

One Active Travel project was completed in 2024, the project involved providing new footpath and cycle paths along 1,030m section of the Newtown Road R769, plus a new bus set down and pedestrian crossing at the Maldron Roundabout. The project is phase 1 of a larger scheme to provide alternative travel modes leading into Wexford Town.

There were three Safer Route projects completed in 2024 improving access to primary schools.

Adamstown National School, 250m of new footpath plus pedestrian crossings.

St.Aidans National School, Enniscorthy, 260m of new footpaths plus pedestrian crossings.

Rosslare National School, 275m of new footpaths plus pedestrian crossings.

³ For background on PIA information refer to the draft Round 4 Noise Action Plan guidance note that was sent via email to the LAs on the 5th December 2024 - [Noise Mapping and Action Planning - Topic Home Template](#).

⁴ If reporting annual progress on the R3 NAP, then you should provide details of priority areas which have been addressed under the R3 noise action plan

⁵ As above, can provide details of priority areas if reporting annual progress on the R3 NAP.

6. Where any other areas have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year, provide the following details, for each area addressed (or costed):

Important area, MIA or IA addressed	No
Noise reduction measures introduced	The provision of alternative modes of travel via the Active Travel and the Safer Routes schemes reduces vehicular traffic in the local vicinities thus reducing noise emissions.
Estimate of the number of people benefiting from noise reduction	200 x 4 projects, 800 people.
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	5dB
Budget (if available)	Funded by NTA
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	Not available
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	Not available

7. Provide details of any material change in environmental noise in the PIA or any other area concerned in the preceding year.

No material changes to report in the previous year.

8. Provide details of any quiet areas which have been delimited (established), or are progressing towards being delimited, in the area concerned in the preceding year⁶.

No quiet areas delimited in the previous year.

The In-house Noise Working Group intend to assess quiet areas in 2025.

9. Where quiet areas have been delimited (established), or are progressing towards being delimited, during the preceding year, please provide details of the methodology used to identify potential quiet areas⁷.

Not applicable

⁶ See DECC Circular Circular EP2/4 re: Re: European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 S.I. No. 549 of 2018 (as amended), and the Draft Round 4 Noise Action Plan guidance note.

⁷ See Draft Round 4 Noise Action Plan guidance note - Section 7: Quiet Areas.

10. For each action which the action planning authority intended to take, as set out within the NAP, provide details of progress which has been made during the preceding year, and compare with the implementation plan timetable in the action plan with the progress made. Indicate where proposed outcomes have been achieved.

Table 18: Noise Action Plan Implementation

Measure	Responsible Aim (RA)	Measure Description	Timescale	Implementation Period
General – Noise Management Measures				
WXC_M1	1 & 5	Support the Development of National Noise and Other Related Policy and Guidance	Short- Long-term	2024-2028
WXC_M2	2, 3, 4 & 5	Noise Action Plan Working Group(s)	Bi-annual	2024-2028
WXC_M3	8	Annual Report to Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	Annual	2024-2028
WXC_M4	5 & 7	Continued Investigation and Management of Noise Complaints	On-going	2024-
WXC_M5	3, 4 & 5	Stakeholder Collaboration	On-going	2024-
WXC_M6	3, 4, 5 & 6	Ongoing Community Engagement	As required	2024-2028
Prevention – Noise Management Measures				
WXC_M7	5	Planning Application Advice, Conditioning and Enforcement	On-going	2024-
Mitigation – Noise Management Measures				
<i>Existing Plans, Projects and Strategies</i>				
WXC_M8	3 & 5	Support Implementation of Other Relevant Plans, Projects & Strategies	On-going	2024-

11. Provide details of any additional actions which the authority has taken during the preceding calendar to address environmental noise which have not been reported above⁸. See considerations listed below in the Appendix.

Wexford County Council completed one Active Travel and three Safer Routes to schools in County Wexford in 2024 which will encourage the use of cycling and walking and reduce the number of vehicle movements.

In July 2024 the elected members of Wexford County Council agreed to implement the rural default speed limit of 60km/h on all rural roads throughout the county, giving a maximum speed reduction of 20km/h. The speed reduction with the corresponding noise reduction has a positive impact on roadside environment and the county. The new rural default speed limits include areas outside the Priority Impact Areas (PIAs) identified in the Noise Action Plan 2024-2028. Wexford County Council will be carrying out a full speed limit review in 2025 including examination of the urban speed limits. The 11 no. PIAs will be considered in assessing the adoption of the lower speed limits.

⁸ Local authorities to report any other actions that are relevant to the NAP, and which may not directly address a priority (PIA) or other area.

12. Where additional actions have been taken during the preceding year, provide the following details, for each action⁶:

Area addressed	No additional actions to report in the previous year.
Noise management or reduction measures introduced	
Estimate of the number of people benefiting from noise reduction	
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	
Budget (if available)	
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	

Appendix A Standard Templates

Template 1: Example Noise Log Sheet

Name and Address of Complainant:

Name and Address of Premises Complained of:

Type(s) of Noise Nuisance Experienced:

Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Description of Noise	Other Comments
			e.g. Dog barking or fan whirring, or music playing	e.g. Noise woke me up e.g. Noise all day but worse after 8.00pm

Do not forget to complete the declaration of record details.

Declaration of True Record
(* please delete as appropriate)

Template 4: Example Record of Noise Investigation Site Visit

Part I: General Details

Inspector Name (s)			Note 1: Wind Strength Descriptors 0 Calm - Smoke rises vertically 1 Light air - Direction of wind shown by smoke drift, but not wind vanes 2 Light breeze - Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary vane moved by wind 3 Gentle breeze - Leaves and small twigs in constant motion 4 Moderate breeze - Raises dust and loose paper, small branches are moved 5 Fresh breeze - Small trees in leaf begin to sway 6 Strong breeze - Large branches in motion, umbrellas used with difficulty against wind 7 Near Gale - Whole trees in motion, inconvenience felt when walking against wind 8 Gale - Twigs break off trees, progress generally impeded 9 Strong Gale - Slight structural damage occurs (chimney pots, slates removed)
Date			
Address of visit Location			
Time of visit (arrival, departure)	From	To	
Noise Monitoring	Yes	No	
Investigation Ref. No.			
Wind Direction (observer vs. Alleged source of noise nuisance)			
Wind Strength			
General weather conditions: rain, dry, etc			

Part II: Observations

Observer Location (e.g. Garden, kitchen)	Volume Descriptor	Start Time	Period of Observation	Persistence	Description

Notes: May be useful to provide sketch of locations and include alleged noise source location.

Volume Descriptors: 0 = Not audible, 1 = barely audible (i.e. if observer remains quiet, or only with windows open), 3 = easily noticeable (i.e. during normal activity within the house), 4 = loud (e.g., need to turn volume up on television to hear, impacts on normal conversations)

Period of Observation: should be a minimum of 5 minutes at each location.

Persistence descriptors: 0 = No noise, 1 = continuous, 2 = intermittent.

Noise descriptions: Describe noise if possible.

Template 5: Example Offensive Noise Test

Checklist of Considerations		
This checklist is not exhaustive and it is not intended that all the questions are answered 'yes' before a noise can be deemed offensive	Yes	No
Q1: Is the noise loud in an absolute sense? Is it loud relative to other noise in the area? This establishes that the noise is likely to be heard by neighbours. Its volume alone may be annoying. An example would be music being played at a very high volume in a residence so it can be heard over very noisy activity outside, such as construction work. The noise may also be loud relative to the background noise. An example would be loud fireworks set off late at night. Noise measurements using a sound level meter would help to determine how loud the noise is relative to the background noise level in the area.		
Q2: Does the noise include characteristics that make it particularly irritating? The presence of tones, impulses or fluctuations in volume can make people more likely to react to the noise. These can be judged subjectively but noise measurements will help to quantify the extent of these characteristics. Examples might be screeching sounds from poorly maintained equipment or a 'beeper' alarm that uses a pulsed sound made up of one or two alternating frequency tones, usually higher pitched, that are louder than the background noise in the area.		
Q3: Does the noise occur at times when people expect to enjoy peace and quiet? People usually expect their surroundings to be quieter during the evening and at night. Talk to the complainants about how the noise affects them to see if it is interfering unreasonably with their comfort at home. Is it regularly disturbing their sleep, making it difficult to have a conversation, study, read or hear the TV? Noise that regularly disturbs sleep is likely to be considered offensive by complainants and this should be taken into account in your assessment.		
Q4: Is the noise atypical for the area? Where noise from an activity that is causing nuisance is new or unusual for an area, people are more likely to react. Look at the typical uses of the area and determine whether the activity is consistent with the local environmental plan. An example might be a community event with amplified music affecting a residential area that has not traditionally been affected by such events.		
Q5: Does the noise occur often? Noise can be more annoying when it occurs frequently. Examples might be a leaf blower used every morning or a band that practises frequently without regard to the impact on neighbours.		
Q6: Are a number of people affected by the noise? Only one person needs to be affected by the noise for it to be deemed offensive. However, talking to other neighbours likely to be exposed to the same noise about how it affects them may assist in deciding what action to take. Some councils have a policy of requiring a minimum number of complaints from different individuals before taking formal action.		

Appendix B Active Travel Scheme:



Newtown Road R769, 1,030m new footpath and cycle path:

Appendix C Safer Routes to Schools:



1. Adamstown National School, 250m new footpath and pedestrian crossings:



2. St. Aidan's National School, 260m new footpath and pedestrian crossings:



3. Rosslare National School, 275m new footpath and pedestrian crossings:

