## Environmental **Noise**

**Organisation:**General Question Time

**Source:**Scottish Parliament - Scotland Oral Answers

**Date:** 21.11.13

Gordon MacDonald (Edinburgh Pentlands) (SNP):

2. To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to meet its obligations under the European Union directive relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. (S4O-02613)

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change (Paul Wheelhouse): The Scottish Government is currently consulting on noise action plans that are required under the environmental noise directive. Those plans set out a suite of proposed actions, building on the strategic noise maps that were published earlier this year for the principal agglomerations: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen; main airports; and major road and rail networks. The consultations close on 18 December.

Gordon MacDonald: The Edinburgh draft noise action plan identifies Calder Gardens in the Sighthill area of my constituency as an Edinburgh road candidate noise management area. The directive requires member states to bring about measures intended to avoid, prevent or reduce exposure to environmental noise. Is the minister concerned that further house building in the west of the city and the resulting traffic increase in the Calders area will add to the environmental noise problem?

Paul Wheelhouse: I remind members that I have previously provided advice-as noted in my register of interests-regarding education aspects of proposed developments in the west of Edinburgh.

The strategic development plan for south-east Scotland, which was approved by Scottish ministers in June 2013, makes strategic housing land allocations that require to be reflected in local development plans. Planning applications for housing development proposals require to be determined in the normal way by planning authorities taking into account all material considerations that may impact on the local environment. Those include noise impacts as well as the previous issue raised by Mr MacDonald regarding air quality.

21 November 2013

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