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| **[Noise pollution from onshore wind developments](http://mmail.dods.co.uk/wf/click?upn=PUcZOS6-2FNT4PrY23eS-2B6NzBfsdvqTeU5dcR-2F818NKWCllkvF6eYk1J3p-2Bio04cP5eZZTSBXETivRjrvDmsiuv-2FV-2FC51PNhc3TqetHgP8AgOVBqLlOxJpii6j0vgd7z4C_3YiO3g4OZ88zjwmUl85ryrr41X3s14Hz15ODy2H11NTqxe3EFDDGK1c-2Bv1SVdgMvTB-2F8YzsAzpq5CS0p-2FV-2B-2BjU1y2JU1aQJpQCZ-2BA7RkOgjeSlhDzA5hO73kDNJOkfzKLgy3W6WXmc2a0564hZQf4yFO1W0nQ9VCZ0NxkPUmV5OiNVzMqdkJ5CZizti-2B-2B5btg2tLhb7bP5TkyvkjuaD3enLqGNt3aL3aT4KodrGTxmw-3D)**  |
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| **Enterprise and Environment** **Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)** : To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on reviewing the guidelines regarding noise pollution from onshore wind developments. (S4W-24893) **Answered on Wednesday 25 March 2015** **Aileen McLeod** : Responsibility for dealing with any complaints about noise and nuisance, including from onshore wind developments rests with local authorities, who have a duty to investigate such complaints under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In support of this the Scottish Government issued guidance on these provisions in January 2009: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2009/01/23142152/0>. Further guidance specifically relating to noise from wind turbines – Wind Farm Noise Statutory Nuisance Complaint Methodology – and aimed at all of the UK was published in April 2011: <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69222/pb-13584-> windfarm-noise-statutory-nuisance.pdf The Institute of Acoustics published A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise in May 2013. The Scottish Government recognised that the guidance represented industry good practice in correspondence with the Institute of Acoustics. The view of the Scottish Government is that the provisions currently in place in respect of planning and environmental health provide an appropriate and practical level of public protection from noise concerns arising from the development and operation of wind farms in Scotland. We are aware that some people in Scotland are concerned about possible health impacts from wind farms. In line with our approach to other public health issues, the Scottish Government receives evidence-based advice from Health Protection Scotland, our national health protection experts, and also from Public Health England. They have the expertise to assess the scientific literature available on this topic, and keep it under review. At the current time, there is not sufficient evidence to conclude that wind farms have negative health impacts. In this context the Scottish Government will study the Northern Ireland Assembly wind energy inquiry report for any lessons. The Scottish Government has also commissioned research looking at whether the impacts predicted by developers prior to approval at 10 onshore wind farm developments were consistent with the impacts experienced with those wind farms now that they are operating. The study is looking specifically at visual, shadow flicker and noise impacts. Whilst the study results are not expected to be representative of the wind farm sector as a whole, as they relate only to 10 wind farms where there have been known complaints, it is expected to lead to further changes in planning advice and guidance to help manage the future impacts of wind farms. |

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