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| Your profile: **Noise **Monitoring****To outline what actions his Department can take to reduce the adverse **noise** and vibration impact that heavy goods vehicles are having on properties in Hillsborough village. **Organisation:**Regional Development  **Source:**Northern Ireland - NIA Written Answers Booklet  **Date:** 08.04.14  Mr Jonathan Craig  To ask the Minister for Regional Development to outline what actions his Department can take to reduce the adverse noise and vibration impact that heavy goods vehicles are having on properties in Hillsborough village. [AQO 5971/11-15]   **Answer:**  My Department, along with other competent authorities, including major Airports, Railways and Industry, is currently working towards a Noise Action Plan for Northern Ireland, in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (NI) 2006.  In line with criteria for investigating areas for potential action in relation to noise from road traffic, the noise level used in the assessment is based on the 1% of the population affected by the highest noise levels. This equates to a road traffic noise of at least 75 decibels (dB).  As part of the Road Noise Action Plan, my Department has assessed the A1 dual carriageway at Hillsborough and the roads through Hillsborough village. As a result, the Hillsborough area has not been identified as a Candidate Noise Management Area (CNMA). The assessment results show noise levels in the Hillsborough area to be below 75dB and do not indicate noise mitigation measures are required at this time.  There are a significant number of properties and people within the Belfast area who are currently exposed to noise levels over 75dB, and therefore priority has been given to these areas, included as CNMA's in the proposed Action Plan.  There has been a lot of research work carried out on the issue of traffic induced vibrations over the years and I understand the general conclusion has been that, they have insufficient energy to cause damage to an otherwise sound structure.  Imperfections in the road surface are the main cause of vibration and the monitoring of surface condition is an important part in preventing traffic induced vibration. My Department inspects the footways and carriageway in this area on a cyclical basis and anything considered hazardous to the public, is identified and programmed for repair. |

08/04/2014 [AQO 5971/11-15]

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