

INSTITUTE OF ACOUSTICS MEETING ON URBAN NOISE
MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION, 13/14 NOVEMBER 1973

The establishment of Local Authority noise control services
F REYNOLDS, Chief Environmental Health Officer,
Leeds Metropolitan District Council

Community reaction to noise as a pollutant is increasing very fast - this can be illustrated by a tabulation of complaints received by Local Authorities during the past ten years or so.

Since 1960 Local Authorities have had a measure of control over excessive noise by virtue of the Noise Abatement Act 1960, but it has become increasingly obvious, particularly during the past two or three years, that this legislation is outdated and totally inadequate to deal with engineering noise problems of the modern industrial society, or to satisfy the current social and political climate in which pollution control must receive some measure of priority at government and local government level. Fortunately public reaction is being recognised at all levels and government has recently provided for local government new guidance on measures to be taken to reduce the noise climate, or to indicate works to mitigate the effect of certain types of noise (e.g. highway noise).

The new guidance and additional legislation is placing increased responsibilities - both administrative and technical - on Local Authority Public Health Departments, which is resulting in completely new thinking in terms of resources of staff and instrumentation which are necessary now, and will be more necessary over the next few years, if the proposed Environmental Protection Bill provides further legislation to control noise - for example, by means of noise abatement zones.

Mr Reynolds will outline his experience in developing an Environmental Protection Unit for the City of Birmingham and his thoughts on the development of a similar unit for the new Metropolitan District of Leeds. He will refer to the general need for additional training and the introduction of new disciplines into environmental health departments throughout the country.