



Wind Turbine Noise Seminar

Radisson Blu Glasgow

Friday 22nd September 2017

Welcome

INTRODUCTION

Melvin Grosvenor
Independent Noise Working Group (INWG)

Guest Speakers:

M Patrick Dugast

Dr John Yelland

Professor Mariana Alves Pereria

Focus of Seminar

There are an increasing number of residents living in close proximity to wind turbines reporting severe adverse health impacts.

What are the current official responses to affected residents?

Statement by Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy

in a response letter dated 31st January 2017 to the Parsons Brinkerhoff AM report.

“The overall balance of a large body of existing peer reviewed scientific evidence currently suggests that wind turbine noise (including audible, low frequency noise and infrasound) is not likely to affect human health.

Available studies also show that when sited properly, wind turbines are not related to adverse health. For example, a peer-reviewed article by Knopper et al. (2014), summarises the findings of past studies into wind turbine noise”

Scottish Government Energy and Climate Change Directorate

Statement in a letter dated 8th September 2017

*“In response to the matter of low frequency noise and infrasound, investigations/studies **have found no evidence of health effects arising from infrasound or low frequency noise generated by wind turbines**”*

referencing a study published in 2006 which attributed complaints to *“Amplitude Modulation” (AM)*

The statement referred to a study published
in South Australia in
February 2013 which concluded;

*“the results showed that there was no
noticeable difference in infrasound levels
whether the turbines were active or inactive”.*

Bowdler et al. (2009)⁹ concludes that: “...there is no robust evidence that low frequency noise (including ‘infrasound’) or ground borne vibration from wind farms generally has adverse effects on wind farm neighbours”.

Extract from IoA Bulletin co authored by
Bowdler D, Bullmore A, Davis B, Hayes M,
Jiggins M, Leventhall G, McKenzie A, (2009),

Note: The IoA Bulletin is a bi monthly ‘acoustic trade magazine’ and not a learned Peer Reviewed Journal

Scottish Government
Energy and Climate Change Directorate

Confirm that their position is that there is:

“no evidence of health effects arising from infrasound or low frequency noise generated by wind turbines.”

**Response by NHS Ayrshire & Arran
to a local resident 28th February 2017**

*“2016 report published by Department of Energy & Climate
Change”*

(DBEIS - WSPB Report on Amplitude Modulation)

*“This report provides a useful summary of available research
**into whether low frequency noise generated by wind
turbines is harmful to human health”.***

*“There is a body of evidence generally anecdotal, suggesting a range of other possible (adverse) health effects that some people attribute to wind turbine noise exposure. **These cases are not currently supported by the weight of epidemiological evidence**”*

“But such effects have so far not been consistently or robustly demonstrated in the case of wind farm noise”.

“The report concludes that EAM associated with wind farms may cause increased annoyance”.

The letter also advises that NHS Ayrshire & Arran have sought opinions from an expert in **Health Protection Scotland** who comments:

*“while the evidence available maybe limited, the balance of evidence available that does exist does **not appear to suggest an association between exposure to infrasound and long term health impacts**”.*

In this and other recent communications,

NHS A & A advise affected residents to consult with their GP's.....

Affected residents have been taking this advice and have been consulting their GP's and consistently report that their,

GP's have no recognised guidance or medical reference codes to diagnose,

***“Wind turbine syndrome”
or “Vibroacoustic Disease”***

Indeed there are those in this seminar tonight who can attest to this fact....

NHS A & A also stated in the case of SSE's Mitsubishi turbine at Hunterston, North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) Environmental Health have advised that:

“the turbine's operational noise emissions are compliant with the conditions attached to the consent in accordance with National noise guidance (ETSU) and the Department of Trade & Industry Guidance”.

&

SSE have undertaken additional LFN monitoring which they say ***“found no excessive low frequency peaks attributed to its operation”.***

In effect NHS A & A have passed complaints back to NAC Environmental Health & Local GP's.

Responses from North Ayrshire Council's Environmental Health Department

“I would again request that in future, issues relating to your health be directed towards your GP/NHS rather than Environmental Health”.

“Environmental Health will investigate complaints of excessive noise amounting to a statutory nuisance”.

Specialist Environmental Health Officer (Noise)
North Ayrshire Council

EHO North Ayrshire Council v Scottish NHS



It's hard to admit to serious errors...(1)

- Asbestos
- Radium Girls
- Tobacco
- Thalidomide
- Primodos
- Wind turbines

TORONTO (Reuters)

"Canada has set a 2018 target to ban asbestos and products containing the fire-resistant material, which is linked to cancer and other illnesses, the government said on Thursday in a move that brings the country in line with much of the developed world."

The Canadian Wind Energy Association...

*"...welcomes new research by **Health Canada**, a summary of which concludes that there is **no evidence of a causal relationship between exposure to wind turbine noise and self-reported medical illnesses and health conditions.**"*

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“Manufacturers funded research that supported their claims - and ignored independent studies that proved the opposite. So when the dial-painters asked their bosses if it was safe to lip-point, they said yes.”

[Daily Telegraph]

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“...There is, in the committee's opinion, no definitive evidence proving that there is an agent in tobacco which causes cancer of the lung. Furthermore, the statistical evidence indicates that it is unlikely that the increase in the incidence of lung cancer is entirely due to increases in smoking.” (UK Government, 1954)

“there still isn't a single shred of substantial evidence to link cigarette smoking and lung cancer directly.” (R J Reynolds, 1954)

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UK: licensed 1958, withdrawn 1961

Canada: withdrawn later in 1962

Why does the UK Government cite Health Canada for evidence that wind turbine ILFN is harmless?

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The Primodos catastrophe has had very little press exposure compared to the Thalidomide catastrophe, which it much resembles. It was marketed as a pregnancy test, not as a cure for morning sickness, but the harms that the two drugs caused were very similar. Yet the periods between licensing and withdrawal were very different:

Thalidomide 1958 to 1961 (3 years)

Primodos 1959 to 1978 (19 years)

And it's not over yet.

Why the difference?

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UK Government MHRA: 2014:

"The studies are inconsistent in their findings for an association between use of HPTs and congenital anomalies and are not considered sufficient to conclude that an association exists." (2014)

A UK based documentary on Sky News aired on April 16th 2017 exposed several previously undisclosed facts linking the manufacturer of Primodos to several cover-ups **together with UK regulators and expert consultant physicians.**

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Infrasound and Low Frequency Noise from wind turbines inflict serious adverse health effects on a significant minority of effected wind farm neighbours.

Dr Leventhall:

"I can state quite categorically that there is no significant infrasound from current designs of wind turbines. To say that there is an infrasound problem is one of the hares which objectors to wind farms like to run."

Dr Yelland:

"I firmly believe that the primary cause of the more severe symptoms of Wind Turbine Syndrome is the very high levels of infrasound and low frequency noise energy emitted by wind turbines."

Introduction to John Yelland

MA DPhil (Oxon) MInstP FIET MIOA AMASA

The Wind Turbine “Noise” Problem –

Is it Infrasound, Low Frequency Noise,

or

Amplitude Modulation