

Detailed analysis of the introductory Presentation by Melvyn Grosvenor:

Many of the slides are self-explanatory but the ones below need further explanation.

Slide 5: Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) a response letter sent to a concerned resident dated 31st January 2017, refers to the Parsons Brinkerhoff study on AM to which The Independent Noise Working Group has responded, setting out INWG's significant concerns with regards to the outcome of this report, which considers that the issue of intrusive audible Amplitude Modulation noise emissions from wind turbines has not been adequately addressed, and in part cites that local residents are mainly "annoyed" by wind turbine noise and may be under the influence of other "non-acoustic factors".

Full details of INWG's response are contained in the published Work Package 8.1 which partially concluded:

"That noise complaints from within communities and by local residents need to be taken seriously as being well founded and legitimate. They should be thoroughly investigated and that there should be no attempts to undermine these complaints as being as a result of mere 'annoyance' due to a perceived notion that complainants just don't like wind turbines or are even motivated by other non-acoustical factors".

The DBEIS slide also referred to a report which stated:

"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"

INWG also have issues with this peer article which we will not cover in this response.

Slide 6 refers to a response another severely affected resident received in a letter dated 8th September 2017 from the "**Scottish Government Energy and Climate Change Directorate**":

"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) along with a study in South Australia which also concluded "the results showed that there was no noticeable difference in infrasound levels whether the turbines were active or inactive".

this letter also referred to the following:

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"

From this slide we can see that Dick Bowdler along with other acousticians has advised Westminster and the Scottish devolved Government, that there is *"no robust evidence..."* so in effect reiterating this position, which is unfortunately contrary to the experience of those residents who are affected, which is increasing in number. It is important also to mention that there are residents who will not appear to be affected, as is the case in previous studies.

So when considering the UK Governments position: *"that the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, the National Health Service, the Scottish Energy and Climate Change Directorate and Health Protection Scotland amongst others say there is no evidence of health effects arising from infrasound generated by wind turbines"* it is important to put this in to this wider context: that the National Health Service and Health Protection Scotland are also reliant on this source of advice (along with other sources of information of which we have concerns) and yet are being required to respond to the desperate calls from affected residents for assistance.

This endorses the call for a recognition that there is a credibility gap between the responses from these official sources, who are unwittingly adding to the distress and helplessness of those most affected who are just seeking resolution, and action from those authorities charged to protect the health and wellbeing of citizens, no matter who they are or where they live.

Slide 11

It is also of concern that both NHS Ayrshire and Arran and Health Protection Scotland in their detailed responses to both affected residents and to North Ayrshire Council, have made no reference to the following study:

"a NHS Shetland report (2013) will be illuminating. It is not available as a resource on this website but can be found at":

http://www.shb.scot.nhs.uk/board/publichealth/documents/Summary_Report_on_Health_Impacts_Wind_Farms.pdf

"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".

Slide 12

"In this and other recent communications, **NHS A & A advise affected residents to consult with their GP's**".....

Slide 13

"In fact 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"....

"real people" who are suffering, spoke during the Q &A session and in at least one case stated openly that they have even had to abandon their property and would even subject themselves to clinical study as an affected person to assist medical research as extensively detailed in Professor Mariana Alves Pereria presentation.

The question is often asked why farmers whose land the turbines are on, do not suffer from any ill effects?

It is common knowledge that land owners agreeing to host wind turbines are required to sign commercial confidentiality contracts and agreements, which contain "gagging clauses". It is also common knowledge that when nuisance claims are settled out of court, which is invariably the case and also in cases where residents opt to be "bought out" by wind turbine operators, these "gagging clauses" also prohibit full disclosure.

The outcome of this is that the true extent of the adverse impacts arising from inappropriately sited wind turbines, is effectively "brushed under the carpet" by the wind energy industry which is totally unacceptable.

Regarding the position of GP's, the simple fact is, even when residents complain of ill health possibly attributed to infrasound, GP's have responded that there is no mechanism to enable them to diagnose these symptoms. It is also evident that there **are cases** where affected residents are presenting themselves to their GP, but both the GP **and** the patient were unaware that their symptoms may be causally linked to powerful infrasound pressure waves, emitted by wind turbines.

Slide 14/15

Residents seeking resolution are also complaining, as so often is the case throughout the UK, to their local Environmental Health Departments, who cite long drawn out issues with compliance or in the case of Hunterston, undertake ineffectual monitoring, both for audible noise and lower frequency noise and infrasound, all of which compounds the suffering of affected residents

It is of extreme concern to simply state this is mere *"nonsense"* or that these affected residents are merely *"annoyed by non-acoustic factors"* or are even *"cranks"* and therefore can be simply ignored or even worse denigrated.

It is simple logic that a systemic failure to deploy appropriate and relevant noise monitoring equipment, will not establish the cause and validity of complaints and to then leave the onus on vulnerable and underfunded residents to prove nuisance through the courts is

totally unacceptable. This is applicable to both complaints arising from audible noise and inaudible sound power frequencies

This is all compounded as in the case of health impacts North Ayrshire Council EHO who when responding in writing to yet another complaint;

“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”.

Slide 16

As a consequence, this ‘**wilfull blindness**’ by developers and authorities, residents are passed from ‘**pillar to post**’ like a game of ping pong.

The serious implications to public health is demonstrated by Professor Mariana Alves Pereria’s presentation slides which validate the clinical trials and extensive evidence gathered over decades. Research which commenced in the 1920s and research which the wind industry is only too well aware of.

Both Dr Yelland and Professor Mariana Alves Pereria's presentations contest that current UK Government guidance is not fit for purpose and therefore there is an urgent need for a review, conducted by a fully independent panel of experts which must include the Independent Noise Working Group, along with carefully selected accredited Acousticians, as at present there is a serious official credibility gap, that there is *"no evidence of infrasound emissions propagated by wind turbines"* as current guidance does not require the wind energy industry or their appointed accredited acousticians to even monitor correctly for Infrasound or Low Frequency Noise.

It is long past the time that the "pseudo babble" nonsense, "what you cannot hear cannot harm you" is truly recognised for what it is.

The ending slides: likened the wind turbine noise issue, to historical public health cases of serious harm, with which most of you will be familiar.

Thank you.