



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales

2023 - 2028

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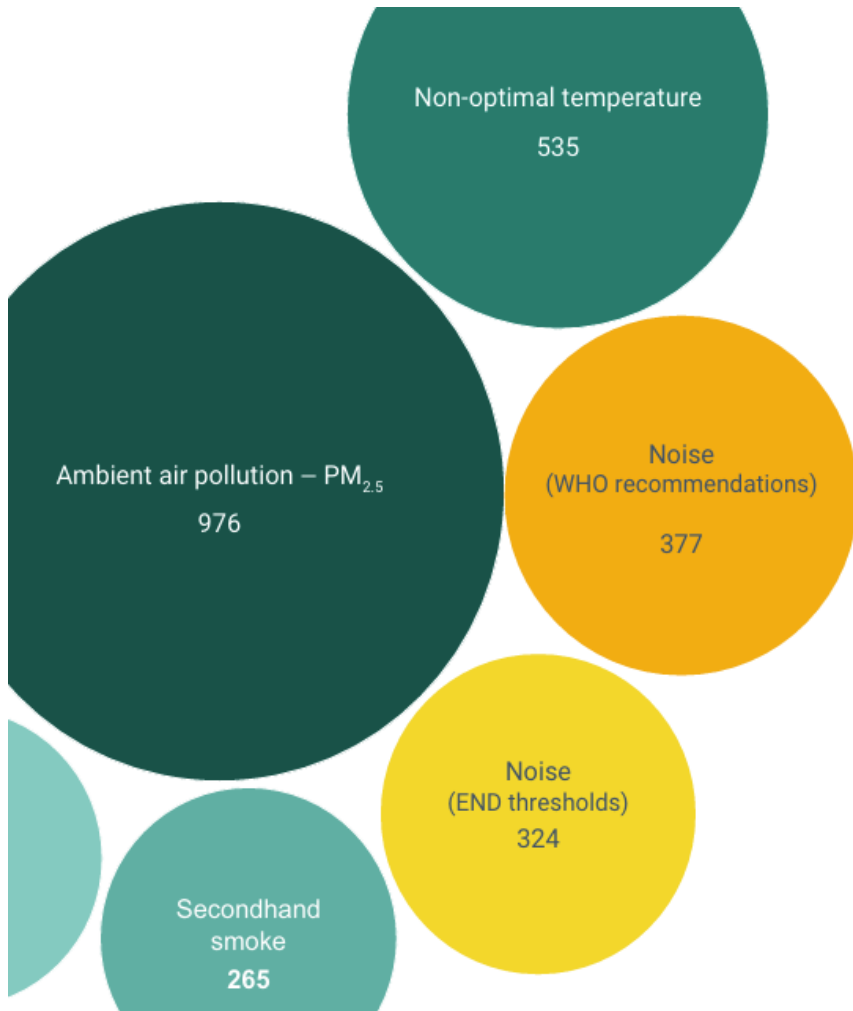


Soundscape Strategy in Wales: Content

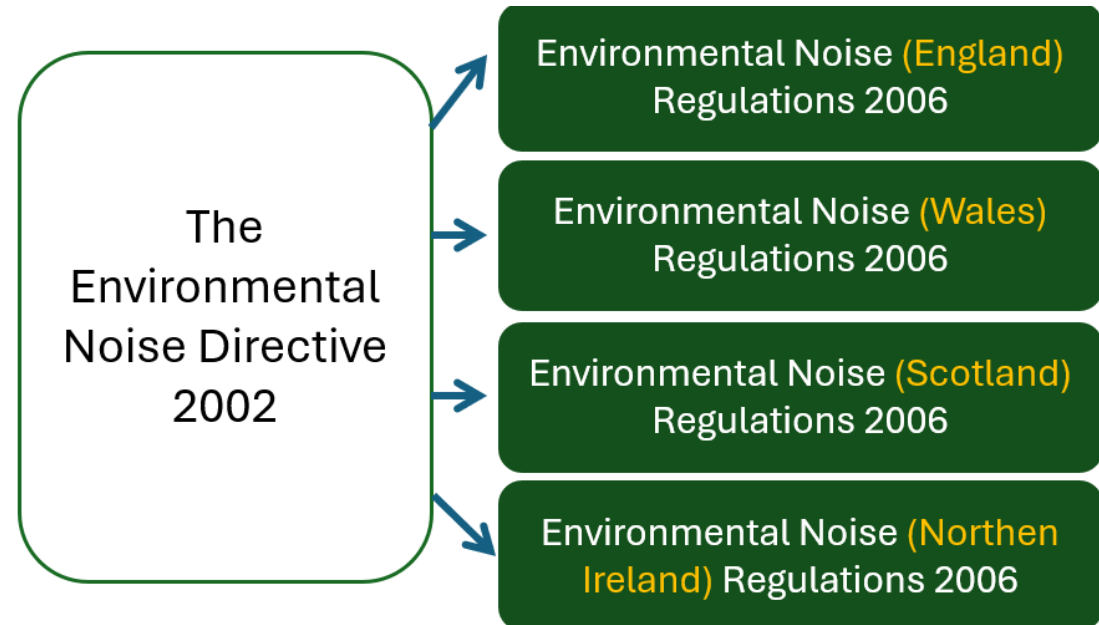


- Legislative Background
 - The Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006
 - Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015
 - Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024
- Noise and Soundscape Plan
 - Planning Policy
 - Quiet Areas
 - Integration with wider policy objectives

Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006



- Noise is a top 3 environmental health risk
- Noise can lead to stress & sleep disturbance, increasing the risk of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, mental health disorders & premature death



Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

National Well-being Goals
(Sustainable Development Goals)



Well-being Duty



5 Ways of Working
(Sustainable Development Principles)



The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024



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- Introduced legislative obligations for noise and soundscapes management
- Welsh Ministers must prepare and publish a national strategy on soundscapes – Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales
- Local authorities and other public bodies in Wales must ‘have regard’ to the strategy when making decisions that could affect soundscapes in Wales.
- This could include:
 - Planning authorities ‘appropriate soundscapes’
 - Protecting & enhancing Quiet Areas
 - Consideration as part of wider health, environment or placemaking initiatives

‘Appropriate Soundscapes’



- Appropriate soundscape = right sound environment in the right time and place.
- Planning authorities are expected to consider:
 - whether developments create inappropriate noise
 - whether developments are compatible with the existing acoustic environment (Agent of Change principle)
 - opportunities to create or enhance positive soundscapes

Protecting and enhancing Quiet Areas



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- There were 63 quiet areas designated in Cardiff and Penarth, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, and Newport.
- Areas of urban tranquility. Assessment criteria included:
 - Relative lack of traffic or industrial noise
 - Presence of natural sounds such as birdsong, rustling leaves, flowing water
 - Visually appealing
 - Accessibility
 - Safety

Integration with wider policy objectives



Graphics from Health Foundation

- Wider determinants of health – increasing understanding about how our built and natural environments affect our health
- Biodiversity - Many species rely on sound for communication, navigation and detecting predators or prey. Human generated noise can interfere with these activities and cause physiological stress leading to decreased survival and reproductive rates.

Thank you for listening!

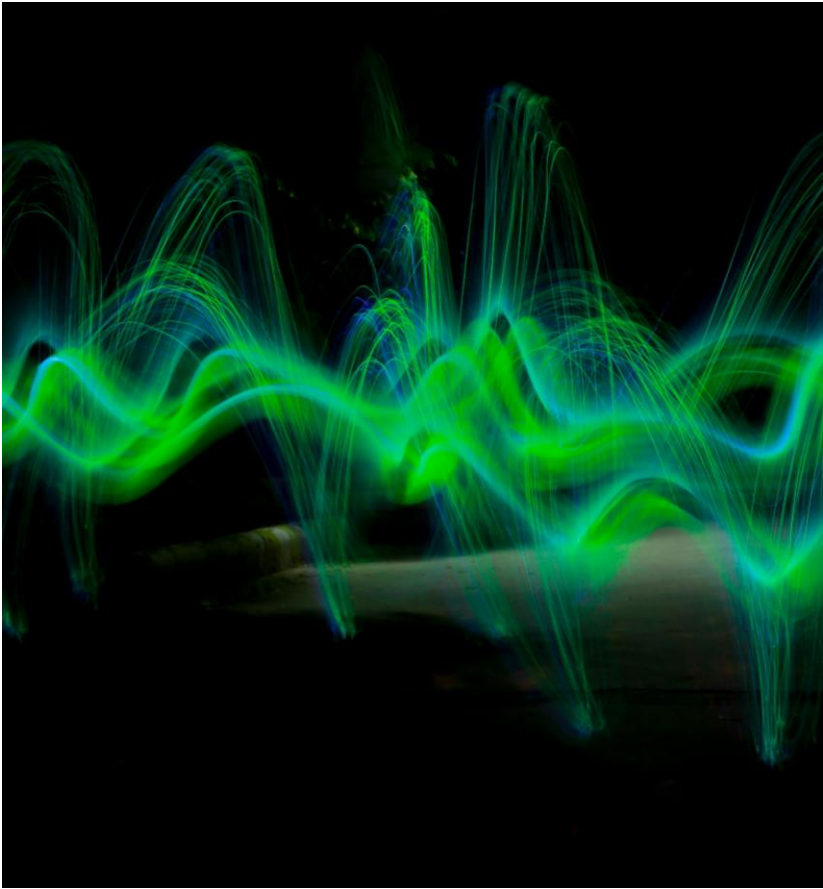


Photo by [abhijeet gourav](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Our Noise and Soundscape Policy is available at:

gov.wales/noise-and-soundscape-plan-for-wales-2023-2028

- Contact us by emailing:

environmentalnoise@gov.wales