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29th September 2021

Dear Siobhan

Designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area, pursuant to the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC) and the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

Thank you for your letter of 7th July September seeking an update on the designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area

Following the closure of the consultation on the designation of Lagan Meadows on 19th October, the Northern Ireland Assembly collapsed in January 2017 and all departments were without Ministers until earlier this year.

Following the return of Ministers in January 2021, it was considered that the evidence-base upon which Lagan Meadows was put forward as a Quiet Area (round 2 mapping in 2016), had been superseded by Round 3 noise mapping results, and will shortly be updated further by the Round 4 noise mapping results. Round 4 noise mapping is due to be based on 2021 data.

It is the intention that round 4 noise mapping will use the new mapping methodology as set out in Directive 2015/996 (CNOSSOS- EU Common Noise Assessment Methods in Europe). This methodology was designed to increase the accuracy of the noise maps and to enable increased comparison between European Countries' noise climates. As such, it is the intention that any further work relating to Quiet Areas in Northern Ireland will be

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based on the results of subsequent rounds of noise mapping and the new CNOSSOS methodology.

I hope that you find this information of assistance.
Yours sincerely,



Amy Holmes

Head of Air and Environmental Quality

Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

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