



## ***Press Release***

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For immediate use

# **'RAILWAY NOISE LESS INTRUSIVE THAN ROADS OR AIRCRAFT' SAYS THE RAILWAY FORUM**

Railway environmental noise affects fewer people than environmental noise from either road traffic or aircraft according to a Railway Forum information booklet released today.

At a time when the implementation of the European Environmental Noise Directive is being considered in the UK the booklet is a reminder that, according to evidence from a UK survey, only 6% of respondents were bothered by railway noise to some extent compared to 40% who were bothered by road traffic noise and 20% who were bothered by aircraft noise. Furthermore across Europe some 80 million people are exposed to environmental noise from transport with road noise accounting for 90% of this total compared to rail which accounts for just 1.7%.

Nonetheless railway noise clearly has an impact upon those exposed to it. The booklet demonstrates that the UK railway industry recognises this and is committed to ensuring that railway noise is reduced where cost-effectively possible.

'Railways are a significantly less intrusive source of environmental noise compared to either road traffic or aircraft,' says Adrian Lyons, Director General of The Railway Forum. 'Nonetheless with demand for rail increasing rapidly the industry is committed to the cost-effective reduction of both noise and vibration and to ensuring that rail remains the most sustainable form of powered transport.'

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### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Railway Forum is an industry-wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies as well as Network Rail, all three major rolling stock leasing companies, the Passenger Transport Executives, London Underground, most of the infrastructure maintenance companies and many manufacturing and other businesses serving the UK rail industry. In all we have some 50 members. Our key role is to act as a think tank, information exchange and point of contact for those committed to and interested in our industry.
2. The publication entitled *Railway environmental noise and vibration* is available at: [www.railwayforum.com/publications.php](http://www.railwayforum.com/publications.php). Hard copies are also available from The Railway Forum on request.
3. Implementation of the EU Environmental Noise Directive in the UK is currently under consideration by DEFRA. The Directive will set guidelines for the assessment and management of environmental noise, including noise from transport. The full text of the Directive can be downloaded from:  
[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/l\\_189/l\\_18920020718en00120025.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/l_189/l_18920020718en00120025.pdf)

Further details on the DEFRA consultation can be found at:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/end-two/index.htm>

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