



Committee Approver	Operations Committee
Stakeholder Consultation	
Date Approved	
Classification	Policy (sitting as an appendix to H&S Policy)
Title	Noise Policy
Revision Date	May 2023
Revised by	Director of Asset Management H&S Advisor
Next Revision Date	May 2026
Related Documents	H&S Policy
Location of Electronic Copy	F:/LIVE POLICIES / Health & Safety

## 1. Policy Statement

Under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005, Viewpoint must take action to prevent or reduce risks to health and safety from noise at work.

Loud noise at work can damage hearing. This usually happens gradually and it may only be when the damage caused by noise combines with hearing loss due to ageing that people realise how impaired their hearing has become.

A robust Noise Policy will demonstrate our commitment to ensuring, as far as reasonably practicable, adherence to the noise at work regulations.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy, is to allow Viewpoint to comply with the obligations placed on it by the Control of Noise at Work Regulations and to reduce the risk of noise induced hearing loss occurring among employees from exposure to noise at work.

This policy will ensure:

- Viewpoint identifies any areas where noise levels can be high.
- Use of the guidelines shown in Figure 1 will determine if a noise assessment in accordance with the Regulations will be required in any area or at any job function.
- Figure 1 shows typical decibel, dB(A), levels for some common sounds. These can be used to make comparison with some of the sounds produced in suspect areas of the premises to determine whether further investigation is necessary.

**Figure One**

<b>Decibel Levels (dB(A))</b>	<b>(Guidelines Only)</b>
Threshold of Pain 140	Jet Engine (25m distance)
130	Jet Aircraft taking off 100m
120	Riveting Hammer
110	Pop Group
100	Pneumatic Drill/Chipper
90	Heavy Truck (7m away)
80	Busy Street
70	Loud Radio
60	Business Office (noisy)
50	Conversational Speech
40	Business Office (quiet)
30	Quiet Library
20	Sound Studio

10 Threshold of Hearing 0	Quiet Woods Faintest Audible Sound
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- The Regulations require that a full Noise Assessment (undertaken in accordance with the Regulations) is carried out where it is likely that personnel may be exposed to a noise exposure of 85 dB(A) averaged over an eight hour day. To ensure that exposure is kept below this level, Viewpoint will arrange for a noise assessment to be undertaken where it is likely that employees may be exposed to any noise levels above 85 dB(A) on a regular basis.
- Any new equipment being obtained for use by Viewpoint staff will be investigated to establish what noise levels are likely to be produced. [Manufacturers now have to supply such information].
- The wearing of suitable ear defenders when using equipment generating high levels of noise, or when working near noisy machinery, is mandatory.
- If jobs undertaken out with the premises incur prolonged exposure to high noise levels then the wearing of ear defenders will be required. This will be noted in the risk assessment.
- The fact that noise does not just damage hearing but can cause other problems such as disturbance, interference with communication and stress will be considered when reviewing safety procedures.
- Records of any noise assessments carried out and of manufacturer's data on noise levels of machinery/tools etc will be held by the relevant department.
- Where an assessment indicates that employees may be exposed above the 85 dB(A) daily average, the full requirements of the Regulations will be complied with, including the use of appropriate control measures, health surveillance (hearing checks), staff training etc.

### **3. Legislation/related policies**

Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005

### **4. Scope**

The Policy applies to all Viewpoint employees and work processes.

### **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

## **Board**

The role of Viewpoint's Board is to ensure that this policy, as well as any associated policies, are regularly reviewed, as required, or in accordance with the usual cycle of policy review.

The Board will, in fulfilling its function, ensure that it complies as necessary with this policy, and the associated policies, procedures and documentation which support it.

## **Executive and Leadership Teams**

The role of the Executive and Leadership Teams is responsibility for ensuring that this policy, and the associated policies, procedures and documentation which support it, are implemented and operated in respect of all premises under their control.

The Executive and Leadership Teams shall ensure that staff are informed of the requirements of this policy and, the associated policies, procedures and documentation which support it, as well as undertaking any associated training.

## **Staff**

All staff are responsible for ensuring that they familiarise themselves with this policy, and the associated policies, procedures and documentation which support it, as well as undertaking any associated training.

## **6. Monitoring & Evaluation**

To ensure this policy remains current and effective it will be reviewed every 3 years or where a need is identified by monitoring methods, for example through audits, inspections or risk assessment reviews.