



Noisedirect
08453 31 32 30
NATIONAL NOISE ADVICE LINE
www.noisedirect.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE



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20 April 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Noise Awareness Day: Noisedirect's Noise Tzar will be joining hands with campaigners around the world to raise awareness of the dangers of noise to health and hearing



27 April 2011

The 16th International Noise Awareness Day (1) takes place this year on Wednesday 27th April, two days before the Royal Wedding. But Noisedirect (2) will be making its own vows to continue providing low cost, independent, impartial, professional advice service for both noise sufferers and noise makers.

As a previous noise sufferer herself, Val Weedon (3), Noisedirect's newly appointed Noise Tzar, knows only too well how important it is for people with noise problems to seek help from someone who is sympathetic and has the sole interest in helping as best as possible.

Noisedirect says:

"Val speaks for the ordinary person and understands what it is like to have a noise problem and how it can take over your life. We are deeply honoured that a veteran campaigner like Val has agreed to help us improve our services and will help spread the message that ordinary people don't need to suffer in silence and no matter how protracted a problem, there are solutions available."

In a recent response to the UK government's White Paper on health (4), Val said:

"Whilst I am heartened in my role as Noise Tzar that the government is committed to reducing 'the percentage of the population affected by

environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise' based on years of my campaigning experience I firmly believe that this can only be achieved through a raft of positive measures"

These include:

- A pledge to ring fence government funding to enable Environmental Health Departments to expeditiously carry out statutory functions under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Housing Act 2004.
- Introduce legislation to allow individuals to appoint and authorise Independent Environmental Health Practitioners (registered with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) to act on their behalf to help improve the health of individuals and communities by serving Hazard Awareness and Nuisance Notices, on behalf of individuals, where issues affecting public health exists.
- Amend the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 to allow any person aggrieved by a Category 1 Noise Hazard within their dwelling, to apply to the local Magistrates Court for the abatement of the Hazard.
- Stop the postcode lottery for investigating noise complaints. Where local authorities fail to carry out inspections in accordance with their statutory duties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Housing Act 2004, then the Local Government Ombudsman should be granted powers to impose a £25 fixed penalty victim fine payable to Councils to complainants.

ENDS

Further information: Val Weedon 01634 686262 (media enquiries only) or 07887 940004 valweedonmbe@noisedirectzar.co.uk

1. International Noise Awareness Day coordinated by the Centre for Hearing and Communication based in New York www.chcheating.org/noise-center
2. Noisedirect is the UK's first independent, national noise advice line provided by Sanctum Consultants; and Environmental Health Consultancy. Operates Monday to Friday and callers, whether noise makers or sufferers, can discuss any noise problem for a fixed fee of £39 for a 30 minute interview and speak to a qualified Environmental Health Professional by phoning a low cost national number and discuss any noise problem in confidence. www.noisedirect.co.uk
3. Val Weedon is a leading anti-noise campaigner since 1991 when she set up the Right to Peace and Quiet Campaign, a domestic noise support group and lobby campaign, working alongside the late comedian Spike Milligan, who was its patron. Val received an MBE in 1997. She then went onto to be a

founder member of the UK Noise Association and is now their Honorary President. She is author of the Quiet Guide and contributed a chapter to a new book being published by Earthscan in August called "Why Noise Matters". (www.valweedon.me)

4. A PDF copy of Val's response are available on request.