



Noisedirect
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NATIONAL NOISE ADVICE LINE
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PRESS RELEASE

25th April 2012

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17th INTERNATIONAL NOISE AWARENESS DAY: 25th April 2012

NOISEDIRECT⁽¹⁾ ANNOUNCE BLUE MU AWARD WINNERS FOR THOSE CONTRIBUTING LITTLE OR NOTHING TO PREVENT NOISE NUISANCE OR IMPROVE THE AURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

HYDE HOUSING AND CROYDON COUNCIL JOINT WINNERS OF THE ELUSIVENESS IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD



Noisedirect's Blue Mu Awards⁽³⁾ are to Noise what the Razzies⁽⁴⁾ are to the Oscars. The Blue Mu Awards is an annual event highlighting those who have added little or nothing to improve noise nuisance or the noise environment in the preceding year. The Blue Mu has particularly sought to recognize the achievements of public sector organisations for innovation in failing to act in accordance with statutory duties.

Announcement of the winners takes place on Wednesday 25th April, the 17th International Noise Awareness Day, a worldwide event, coordinated by the Centre for Hearing and Communication based in New York.⁽⁵⁾

Winners of the Elusiveness in Public Service Award goes to Hyde Housing for the worse behavior from a Housing Association in dealing with a vulnerable noise sufferer and Croydon Council for their failure to carry out statutory inspections for psychological hazards from noise. Both were nominated in relation to their involvement with the Nelson Ajayi case as outlined in a special report written by John Stewart and published by the UK Noise Association in January 2012. The report tells of Nelson's eight year battle with noise nuisance.⁽⁶⁾

Other categories, shortlist of nominations and WINNERS as follows:

The Blue Mu Awards (categories):

- a. Blue Mu Elusiveness in Public Service Award
- b. Blue Mu Indifference in Public Service Award
- c. Blue Mu Best Public Service Noise Myth
- d. Blue Mu New Kid on the Block Old Rhetoric Award
- e. Blue Mu Noise Tzar Award

Blue Mu Elusiveness in Public Service Award

Hyde Housing – for the worst behavior from a Housing Association in dealing with a vulnerable noise sufferer.

Croydon Council – for their failure to carry out statutory inspections for psychological hazards from noise.

Hounslow Council – for lost or missing Noise Policies.

And the WINNER(s) are: Jointly – *Hyde Housing and Croydon Council*

Blue Mu Indifference in Public Service Award

Salford Council for their decision to ignore noise nuisance complaints.

BA/Heathrow Airport.

Dudley MBC for allowing over 27 households to suffer noise nuisance for 5 years from a foundry.

Aldwych Housing Group for failing to take action against a noisy tenant even after the service of 3 abatement notices.

Coalition Government for savage public sector cuts leading to loss of noise services to Councils.

Hambleton Council for allowing residents to suffer noise from Bagby Airfield.

And the WINNER is: *Salford Council*

Blue Mu Best Public Service Noise Myth

Durham/Teeside County Council for declaring a “borderline nuisance”

DEFRA for allowing over 27 households to be subjected to noise nuisance for an appeal case the local Government Ombudsman found did not exist.

And the Winner is: *DEFRA*

Blue Mu New Kid on the Block Old Rhetoric Award

Teresa May – Lack of initiative for ASBO's using mediation and community trigger.
ETSU apologists for Windfarm Noise.

Siobhan Benita Independent London Mayoral candidate for endorsing a third runway at Heathrow Airport.

National Planning Policy Framework for abolishing PPG24.

And the Winner is: *Siobhan Benita*

Noise Tzar Blue Mu Award

London Underground for their constant bombardment of noisy announcements.

All hospitals allowing piped music on their wards.



Bookshops, cardshops and supermarkets that play piped music.

Boris Johnson for proposing to build "Bo Jo International airport" in the Thames Estuary.

And the Winner is: *London Underground*

ENDS

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- Noisedirect** is the UK's first independent, national noise advice line provided by Sanctum Consultants; an Environmental Health Consultancy. Noisedirect operates Monday to Friday. Callers, whether noise makers or sufferers, can discuss any noise issue under a fixed fee of £39 for a 30 minute consultation and speak with a qualified and experienced Environmental Health Professional by phoning a low cost national number. www.noisedirect.co.uk  Follow @Noisedirect
- 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 on to be a founder member of the UK Noise Association. In 2011 Val Weedon was appointed to the role of Noise Tzar by Noisedirect National Noise Advice Line to promote the work of Noisedirect and challenge and dispel noise myths.  Follow@ValNoiseTzar
- The Blue Mu** is based on the Japanese Kanji symbol for nothing. The character is also used as a suffix or prefix for Chinese, and old Korean words. It can be used to say "un-" or "-less" in English. It can also mean "not to have", no, none or not, or "to lack" something or simply denote nothingness. The Blue Mu is awarded by Noisedirect National Noise Advice Line annually to individuals or organisations who our callers tell

us have done little or nothing to prevent noise nuisance or improve the aural environment in the 21st century.

4. **The Razzie** (Golden Raspberry Award) precedes the Academy Awards by one day. The Razzie was founded in 1981 by US publicist John J B Wilson in his front room and is now held in a large theatre in Santa Monica.
5. **International Noise Awareness Day** is coordinated by Centre for Hearing and Communication based in New York, USA
www.chchearing.org/noise-center-home/international-noise-awareness-day
6. **UK Noise Association** www.ukna.org.uk

FURTHER DETAILS OF OUR WINNERS

Blue Mu Elusiveness in Public Service Award **Hyde Housing and Croydon Council**

Nominated for their lack of effort in the Nelson Ajayi case as outlined in a special report written by John Stewart and published by the UK Noise Association in January 2012. Copies of that report available on request or at: www.ukna.org.uk

Blue Mu Indifference in Public Service Award **Salford Council**

The council had agreed at committee that it would not investigate many noise nuisances and would take the risk of being referred to the Ombudsman (Noise Bulletin Jan/Feb 2012)

Blue Mu Best Public Service Noise Myth **DEFRA**

The department was criticized by the Local Government Ombudsman for giving wrong information (LGO complaint no 10 010 095 against Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. 22 March 2012)

Blue Mu New Kid on the Block Old Rhetoric Award **Siobhan Benita**

As part of her manifesto she openly supports the expansion of Heathrow airport and a third runway. (http://www.siobhanformayor.com/policies_2.html)

Noise Tzar Blue Mu Award **London Underground**

For having no consideration for the comfort and well-being of their passengers.