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Lane Rental Consultation
Traffic Division
Department for Transport
Zone 3/26, Great Minster House
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By email only: lane.rental@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

**New Roads and Street Works Act 1991
Lane Rental Schemes in England – A Consultation**

We welcome the opportunity for members of the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) to comment on your proposals to allow local highway authorities in England to implement "lane rental" schemes.

The ANC has represented Acoustics Consultancies since 1973 and has over one hundred member companies representing nearly eight hundred individual consultants. In preparing this response all member companies have been advised of its existence and the comments received by them have then been consolidated.

We support your objective of reducing the adverse impacts of works carried out in the street and agree that these works can also cause significant disruption to road users and local communities. Whilst it is likely that road users will only be affected by the disruption to traffic flow, the local community will also be affected by the noise and vibration generated by the works and these need to be taken into account when the works are planned.

The planning of works often involves a Construction Management Plan which considers both when and how the works will be undertaken. We therefore welcome the acknowledgement in the impact assessment that 'depending on scheme design, stronger incentives to complete works at night or at weekends could have adverse noise-related impacts for local residents' and that 'highway authorities would need to work closely with local environmental health departments to ensure that scheme design does not ignore these considerations'.

We would also raise the related issue that when considering works there are often a number of methods that could be employed which have their individual benefits and drawbacks. A common finding is that the quicker methods, which will be incentivised under the lane rental schemes, are sometimes noisier and generate higher levels of vibration. We therefore recommend that this point is highlighted to those considering such schemes and that there should be a condition similar to that for Construction works in the Control of Pollution Act, requiring that works should be undertaken in such a way as to minimise noise and vibration to residents.

Yours sincerely

Adrian James
Consultation Co-ordinator