

# Joint statement on ProPG and AVO Guide

This statement is jointly published by the [Institute of Acoustics](#) (IOA), [The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health](#) (CIEH), and the [Association of Noise Consultants](#) (ANC).

The [ProPG: Planning and Noise - Professional Practice Guidance on Planning & Noise](#) was published in 2017 jointly by our three organisations working together. The ProPG is referenced by MHCLG in their [Planning practice guidance on noise](#).

The [Acoustics, Ventilation, Overheating: Residential Design Guide](#) (AVO Guide) was published jointly by the IOA and ANC in 2020.

The ProPG was produced to provide practitioners with guidance on a recommended approach to the management of noise within the planning system in England. It encourages good acoustic design for new residential development and aims to protect people from the harmful effects of noise.

An aspiration of good acoustic design is that where practicable residents may open windows without any adverse acoustic impact (ProPG para. 2.33); and that use of the building envelope with windows closed, in conjunction with alternative means of ventilation and control of overheating, is only used after good acoustic design measures have been exhausted.

The ProPG indicates that, where it is not feasible to achieve reasonable internal noise conditions by means of open window designs, the design approach should consider the interaction between provisions for acoustic, ventilation and thermal comfort.

The AVO guidance should not be the starting point in the design of mitigation of noise impact on new residential development. Instead, the AVO guidance should be used after reasonably practicable attempts to use Good Acoustic Design to achieve the internal target levels recommended by the ProPG have been exhausted.

Both the ProPG and the AVO Guide indicate noise level guidelines. We recommend that where necessary, both guidance documents are used as outlined above. Our three organisations are currently working together to consider further how to best integrate the advice within the two documents.

Relevant extracts from the two guides are given below.

- Paragraph 2.34: “design the accommodation so that it provides good standards of acoustics, ventilation and thermal comfort”
- Paragraph 2.36: “[where a] scheme is reliant on open windows to mitigate overheating, it is also necessary to consider the potential noise impact during the overheating condition. In this case a more detailed assessment of the potential impact on occupants should be provided in the ADS [Acoustic Design Statement]”.

The AVO Guide provides a practical method to address those requirements noted in the ProPG.

The AVO Guide post-dates and references the ProPG in paragraphs 1.4, 1.19, 1.20, 1.26, 2.19, 2.49, 2.51, 2.55, 2.56, 2.65, 3.14, B.6, and B.46, for example:

“1.26 The starting position when considering mitigation of noise impact on new residential development is to apply good acoustic design, site-wide, as described in the ProPG.”

ProPG [Note 4 to Figure 2] states that “designing the site layout and the dwellings so that the internal target levels can be achieved with open windows in as many properties as possible demonstrates good acoustic design. Where it is not possible to meet target internal levels with windows open, internal noise levels can be assessed with windows closed...”.