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BARONESS BLOOMFIELD OF HINTON WALDRIST
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2 May 2023

Dear Henry

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 504 TO THE LEVELLING UP AND REGENERATION BILL

During the debate on the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill on Tuesday 18 April, you asked for reassurance that the concerns of residents regarding access to information on noise conditions placed on construction works will not be ignored. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to your question more fully than I was able to during proceedings.

As I set out during the debate, the Government has put in place a range of legislation giving local authorities appropriate powers to manage construction noise. This includes specific measures in the Control of Pollution Act 1974, along with statutory nuisance and planning regimes. These powers are supplemented by British Standard 5228, setting standards for noise and vibration from construction work, which local authorities must consider in managing the impacts of construction noise.

At present, local planning authorities are required to publish all their planning applications and decisions on their planning register. As part of the Government's digital agenda, we are working hard to ensure that these decisions are accessible to all in an appropriate and predictable manner. We therefore believe that your specific concerns as set out in this amendment are best addressed through open access to data, with the flexibility that allows for the evolution of how we access information, rather than by imposing statutory obligations to produce information in a specific format.

I hope you find this letter helpful and that it provides the reassurance that you were seeking. I will also send a copy of this letter to all those Peers who spoke to the amendment and place a copy in the House Library.

Yours as
Olivia

BARONESS BLOOMFIELD OF HINTON WALDRIST

Lord Bellingham
House of Lords