

Interventions to reduce negative health effects associated with noise in the living environment

Research Question(s)

- What interventions are effective* at reducing negative effects on health and wellbeing associated with noise in the living environment**?

The NIHR Public Health Research Programme wishes to commission research on the effectiveness* of interventions to reduce negative health effects associated with noise in the living environment.

Noise can have negative impacts on health and well-being including: cardiovascular health, mental health, annoyance, sleep, cognition and hearing. In the UK, about 30% of the population express dissatisfaction with their sound environment. Proposals must evaluate interventions, with a primary health outcome, provided outside of healthcare, which may be multi-component.

The following issues are of particular interest:

- Interventions to reduce exposure to and harmful effects of noise in the living environment.
- Community-based interventions for improving the noise environment and creating a positive soundscape for health
- Local authority interventions for noise in the living environment
- Approaches appropriate for:
 - Different types of noise (such as noise from transport, industry, construction, neighbours, entertainment venues, public events)
 - Different population groups (such as children or other vulnerable groups)
 - Particular geographical locations (such as urban environments or close proximity to airports or other transport hubs)
 - Appropriate approaches for day time or night time
- Co exposure to noise in the living environment and air pollution and effects on health. Secondary health outcomes may include co-benefits of noise reduction.
- Effect of interventions on health inequalities

For all proposals, applicants should clearly state the public health utility of the outcomes and how they would inform future public health policy and practice. Details on the potential impact and scalability of interventions, if shown to be effective, should be provided.

Proposals should incorporate a mechanism for public involvement.

*'Effectiveness' in this context relates not only to the size of the effect, but it also takes into account any harmful or negative side effects, including inequitable outcomes.

**Living environment in this context describes any aspect of an individual, group or population's everyday physical and social environment, excluding the work environment. (Definition from Public Health Research Consortium final report 2015 - Whitehead M et al. Is control in the living environment important for health and wellbeing, and what does this mean for public health interventions?)

Remit of Call:

All proposals submitted under this call must fall within the remit of the Public Health Research programme. Please go to www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/phr/remit for details.

General Notes:

The PHR programme evaluates public health interventions, providing new knowledge on the benefits, costs, acceptability and wider impacts of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. The scope of the programme is multi-disciplinary and broad, covering a range of interventions that improve public health delivered in a non-NHS setting.

Notes to Applicants

The NIHR Public Health Research programme is funded by the NIHR, with contributions from the CSO in Scotland, NISCHR in Wales, and HSC R&D, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland. Researchers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply for funding under this programme.

Applicants are recommended to seek advice from suitable methodological support services, at an appropriate stage in the development of their research idea and application. It is advisable to make contact at an early a stage as possible to allow sufficient time for discussion and a considered response.

The NIHR Research Design Service

(<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/research/Pages/ResearchDesignService.aspx>) can advise on appropriate NIHR programme choice, and developing and designing high quality research grant applications.

Clinical Trials Units are regarded as an important component of many trial applications however, they are not essential for all types of studies to the PHR programme. The CTUs can advise and participate throughout the process from initial idea development through to project delivery and reporting. NIHR CTU Support Funding (http://www.netscc.ac.uk/supporting_research/CTUs) provides information on units receiving funding from the NIHR to collaborate on research applications to NIHR programmes and funded projects. In addition, the UKCRC CTU Network (<http://www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk>) provides a searchable information resource on all registered units in the UK, and lists key interest areas and contact information.

Transparency agenda

In line with the government's transparency agenda, any contract resulting from this tender may be published in its entirety to the general public. Further information on the transparency agenda is at:

<http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/>

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/policy_and_standards_framework_transparency.asp <http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/>