

Aviation noise and health: approval

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Aims of this session

- update Board on what we have done
- update Board on findings of health evidence review
- agree key messages to be included in published note.



What the project aimed to achieve

This work aimed to:

1. identify and summarise the evidence linking aviation noise to public health and describe and systematically rate the methodologies of the identified studies
2. identify evidence gaps in existing research and make suggestions regarding research that could be conducted to close these gaps.

NatCen conducted a rapid evidence assessment (REA) of:

1. existing aviation noise and health evidence in WHO (WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines published in 2018) and Defra (published in 2019) reviews
2. any relevant evidence published between April 2019 and March 2020.



Outputs

- commissioned a report by NatCen (peer reviewed by members of ICCAN's expert panel) which details the findings from the evidence review, identifies gaps and suggests new research
- held a workshop with members of ICCAN's expert panel
- produced a note to be published alongside the report summarising what we have done and found, as well as next steps.



Key findings

1. There are no clearly defined gaps in the evidence base that future research should focus on.
2. There were limited areas where there is moderate quality evidence.
3. However, some health outcomes may be more amenable to future research than others.
4. Little reason is given for the use of certain metrics in health and aviation noise current evidence base.
5. NatCen suggested a range of study designs which could be used to build the evidence base on health and aviation noise together with an assessment of their strengths, weakness and resource implications.
6. Further work is needed to develop a strategy for delivering research.



ICCAN's next steps

- ICCAN will build on this review and workshop to develop a strategy for how to expand and improve the existing evidence base.
- ICCAN will continue to engage with health and noise experts and other stakeholders to refine our strategy and develop robust research designs.
- This will run in parallel with development of ICCAN's next corporate strategy, and the health goals within it.



Project next steps

- publish note and report w/c 21 September
- start work programme to develop ICCAN's initial health strategy for identifying short- and long-term priorities and how these can be best investigated (completion by the new year):
 - investigate broader prioritisation
 - partner with academics or others for expert advice
 - explore the use of existing data to deliver findings on NatCen's recommendations (for example by data linkage)
- seek to commission new studies where needed (completion early 2021).

