

Adele Kierans
Droskyn Point
Ballybrittan
Edenderry
Co. Offaly
R45 YY63

19th October 2025

Subject: Submission on Ballinla Wind Farm (Ref. 323579) – Concerns Regarding Noise, Health Impacts, and Compliance with Planning Permission

I wish to make this submission in relation to the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference 323579). This development raises serious concerns regarding the potential adverse effects on local residents' health and wellbeing, particularly in relation to noise.

There have been ongoing complaints from many residents living near to other wind farms within County Offaly that are operated by Statkraft – the company involved in this application. The complaints relate to noise from the turbines and the health impacts from that noise.

One particular farm, Cloghan Wind Farm, has caused over 200 complaints over 18 months, with little response from either Offaly County Council or Statkraft. Please see enclosed newspaper article dated 6th August 2025, which can also be found online at <https://www.offalyexpress.ie/news/midlandtribune/1864117/offaly-wind-farm-is-causing-serious-health-impacts-claim-residents.html>

A recent independent acoustic consultant report (enclosed) commissioned by the Communities & Environmental Protection Alliance (CEPA) has found that the Cloghan Wind Farm is not compliant with its permitted noise emissions.

Offaly County Council previously issued an enforcement warning letter to Statkraft regarding their Meenwaun Wind Farm. However, this farm continues to operate unabated and residents are still suffering from noise and health problems as a result.

The Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland (December 2016) states:

“The promoter shall submit an annual report to the local authority of all communications and information provided, queries received, responses to same and recording if these are ongoing or resolved, which will be published on a dedicated register available online. A

Local Authority will take into consideration their performance of these obligations when deciding on new applications by the promoter elsewhere in the county..."

Given the ongoing complaints made against the other developments operated by Statkraft within the county and the lack of response from both Offaly County Council and the developer regarding these complaints, I request that this application be refused in line with the Code of Practice mentioned above.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adele Kierans', written in a cursive style.

Adele Kierans

offaly live

Link to original article: <https://www.offalyexpress.ie/news/midland-tribune/1864117/offaly-wind-farm-is-causing-serious-health-impacts-claim-residents.html>

You are in:>[Offalyexpress](#)>[Local News](#)>[Midland Tribune](#)

Offaly Wind Farm is causing serious health impacts, claim residents

Locals allege sleep disturbance due to noise from Cloghan turbines



The Cloghan residents have lodged many complaints with the local authority over the last year.

Derek Fanning

06 Aug 2025 6:00 PM

Email: derek.fanning@iconicnews.ie

A group of residents based in the Stonestown area near Cloghan are claiming that a Wind Farm in their area is causing noise pollution and health impacts.

In a statement sent to the Tribune, the Communities & Environmental Protection Alliance (CEPA) said it was calling on Offaly County Council to “immediately investigate and take action on ongoing noise pollution and health impacts caused by the Cloghan Wind Farm.”

CEPA pointed out that the residents have been submitting noise complaints to the Council for more than a year. The residents are claiming that the noise pollution has caused them “chronic sleep deprivation, mental health deterioration, and effects on children’s wellbeing.” CEPA alleges that the residents haven’t received “a meaningful response” from the local authority, and the local authority is ignoring them.

The CEPA spokesperson said the complaints “tell of children waking up with bloodshot eyes, families relocating within their own homes to escape the noise, and people breaking under the pressure of nightly sleep deprivation.”

The first complaint was lodged in March 2023. CEPA states that there is no evidence that the Council has conducted an investigation into the matter. After each complaint the residents receive a standard reply: “We acknowledge receipt of your email. It has been forwarded for review to the Environment technical team.”

A review of the wind farm’s official Noise Compliance Report (dated 1 November 2023), said the CEPA spokesperson, “has revealed serious methodological flaws, including a failure to compare background noise with baseline data from the planning process, and a failure to assess ‘tonal’ and ‘impulsive’ noise, both of which are explicitly prohibited under planning conditions. These concerns mirror findings in the case of Meenwaun Wind Farm near Banagher, where disturbingly flawed reports are continuously being accepted by the Council.”

Both Meenwaun and Cloghan wind farms are operated by the same asset manager, Statkraft. Cloghan Wind Farm has 9 wind turbines. Each turbine has a blade tip height of 150 meters. The wind farm has a total capacity of 34MW and is designed to power approximately 27,000 homes.

CEPA says there is a growing health crisis in the community. It says dozens of complaints have now been recorded, with many detailing physical and psychological harm: Some quotes from the complaints include: “All-night humming... having a serious effect on mental health and energy levels.” “Kids waking up wrecked with bloodshot eyes.” “Fourth night without sleep — just not fair as a human to be treated like this.” “Our home has been destroyed and no accountability for it.”

CEPA says the current noise levels affecting Stonestown are well above the WHO 2018 guidelines. The spokesperson added that Offaly County Council has both “a legal and

moral duty under the Local Government and EPA Acts to address this environmental nuisance.” With no Environmental Health Officer on staff, CEPA has requested that all current and future complaints be referred to the HSE’s Environmental Health Office for professional health based assessment.

CEPA is asking the Council to appoint an independent acoustic consultant, with no conflict of interest, to review the existing noise report and conduct new on-site testing. It also wants the Council to “engage in open dialogue with affected residents to co-create a resolution pathway.”

The spokesperson pointed out that complaints are also emerging from Rhode and Cloncreen, “making this not just a local but a county-wide crisis. Wind energy must not come at the cost of human health and dignity.”

Responding to the CEPA press statement and its claims, a member of the County Council Executive told the Tribune this week that, “We are aware of this and it is receiving attention across a number of sections in the Council.” The Executive member said he couldn't say any more than that.

LHUSON & ASSOCIATES

REPORT

NOISE SURVEY

R42 D274

CLIENT:

Communities & Environmental Protection
Alliance (CEPA)

Job No LHA468
October 2025

L HUSON & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

Consulting Scientists in Acoustics

PO Box 290
WOODEND
VIC 3442
AUSTRALIA

Tel. +61(0)416 143 716

Email: office@huson.com.au

ABN 57 094 096 992

NOISE SURVEY

R42 D274

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A noise survey was completed between 12 September 2025 and 30 September 2025 at R42 D274 (dwelling) to test compliance with permitted noise limits for the Cloghan Wind Farm.

The 43 dB(A) $L_{90(10\text{-minute})}$ wind farm noise limit was exceeded in the morning of 15 September 2025. This was a period of high winds when the Cloghan Wind Farm would be generating most power.

No other period exceeded the permitted 43 dB(A) $L_{90(10\text{-minute})}$ sound level after exclusion of extraneous noise events.

Sound from the Cloghan Wind Farm exhibits impulsive sound characteristics.

Sound from the Cloghan Wind Farm is occasionally tonal.

The survey has shown that the Cloghan Wind Farm is not compliant with its permitted noise emissions.

Prepared by

W Les Huson BSc MSc CPhys MInstP MIOA MAAS

Copyright ©

This document is copyright L Huson & Associates Pty Ltd. This document is not authorised to be published either in print or electronically and is Commercial-in-Confidence. The content of this report is provided for the sole use of CEPA and the assessment of the project described within. The use of information contained within this report is not authorised for use on any other project without written approval from L Huson & Associates Pty Ltd

Warranties and Liability

This document contains measurement data that is valid for the time of measurement.

In no event will L Huson & Associates Pty Ltd be liable for any incidental, indirect, consequential, or special damages of any kind, or any damages whatsoever, including, without limitation, those resulting from loss of profit, loss of contracts, goodwill, data, information, income, anticipated savings, or business relationships, whether or not advised of the possibility of such damage, arising out of or in connection with the use of this document.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
INTRODUCTION	3
MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT	3
MEASUREMENT LOCATION.....	3
PERMIT CONDITIONS	5
DATA ANALYSIS.....	5
SUMMARY	15

INTRODUCTION

A noise survey was completed between 12 September 2025 and 30 September 2025 at R42 D274 for the purpose of assessing noise associated with the Cloghan Wind Farm.

The dwelling (R42 D274) is approximately 750m to the north of the nearest wind turbine within the Cloghan Wind Farm.

Measurements were completed in accordance with ISO R1996-1.

MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT

Sound level meter/logger (Class 1):
SVANTEK 977D s/n 99745
Date next calibration due: April 2026

Field Calibrator:
CEL 120/1 s/n 2221119
Date next calibration due: 15 August 2026

Rain Logger:
Rainwise Rainlog2.0 s/n 2008478

Field calibrations at deployment and survey completion show a drift of less than 0.1 dB

MEASUREMENT LOCATION

The measurement location is shown in Figure 1 having coordinates 29U 575081 E, 5896275 N (WGS84).



Figure 1: Noise Logger Location, approximately 10m from nearest building

Figure 2 shows the measurement location in relation to the three nearest wind turbines of the Cloghan Wind Farm.



Figure 2 Nearest wind turbine 750m to the measurement location

Figure 3 shows the logger installation looking towards the nearest wind turbine.



Figure 3

PERMIT CONDITIONS

Condition No. 4(a) of Offaly County Council Planning Register PL2/19/404 requires:

Noise levels emanating from wind farm noise when measured at the nearest noise sensitive properties, i.e. dwelling houses, shall not exceed 43 dB(A) $L_{A90}(10 \text{ minutes})$. There shall be no tonal or impulsive noise and measurements shall be made in accordance with ISO recommendations R1996-1 (Acoustics-description and measurement of environmental noise, part 1; basic qualities and procedures).

The 43 dB(A) noise limit always applies, day and night, and is the noise contribution from the wind farm.

The noise limit is not dependent upon the operating conditions of the wind farm.

If sound from the wind farm has a tonal or impulsive character this breaches the permit.

DATA ANALYSIS

Sound level data for the A-weighted, Fast response, L_{90} statistic and L_{eq} over each 10-minute period throughout the survey are shown for each day in Figures 4 to 21. The 43 dB(A) L_{90} noise limit (horizontal line) is also shown in each figure.

The data shown includes periods of rain, passing road traffic and other extraneous sounds.

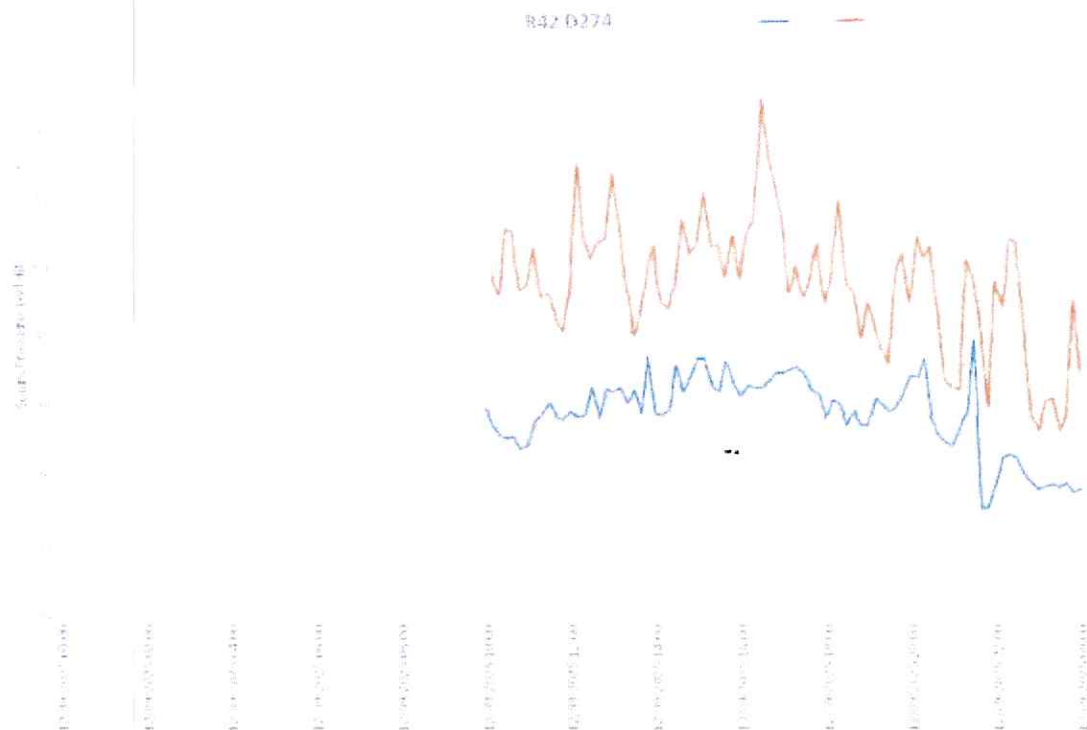


Figure 4

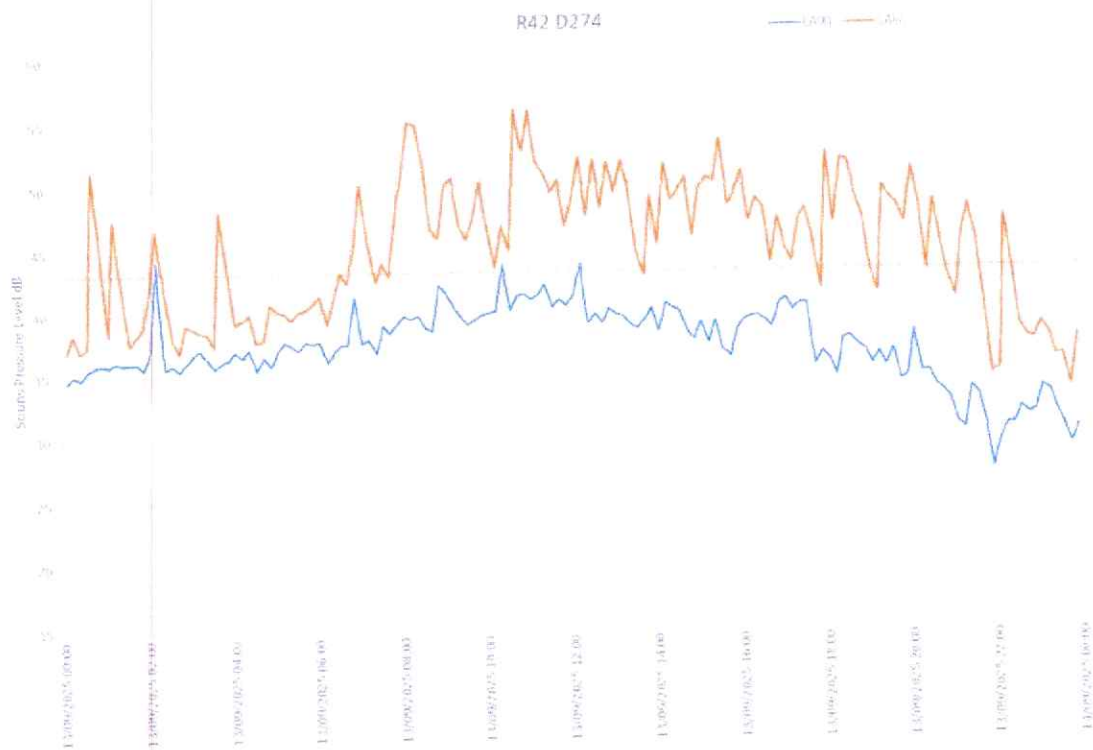


Figure 5

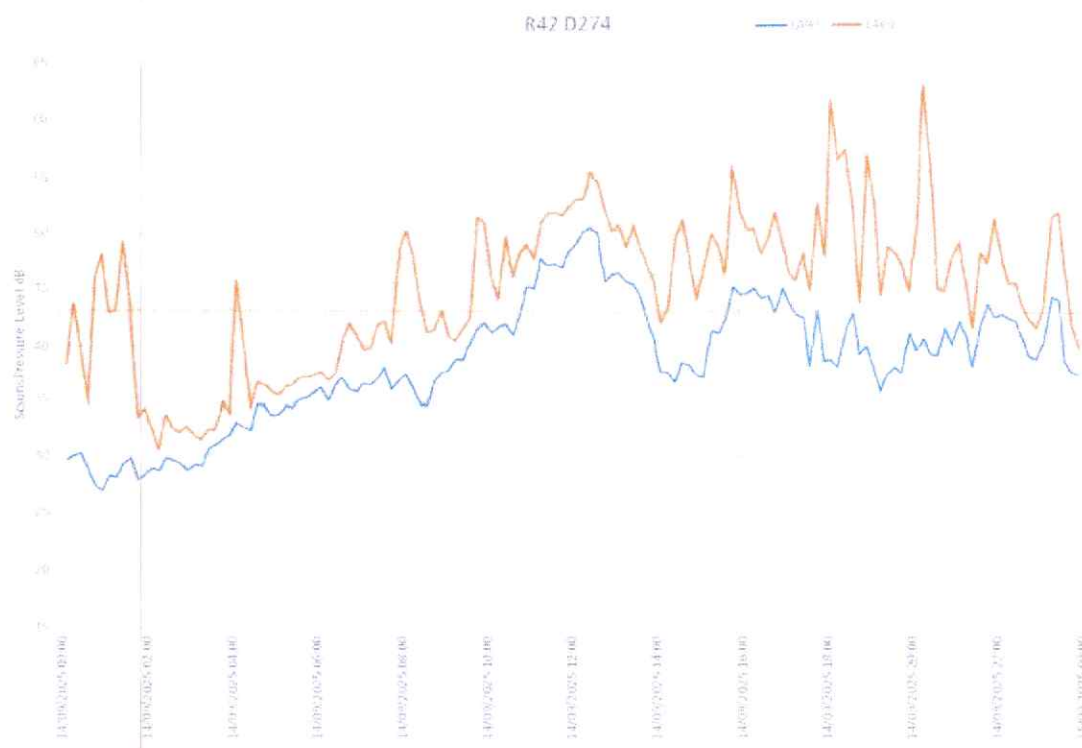


Figure 6

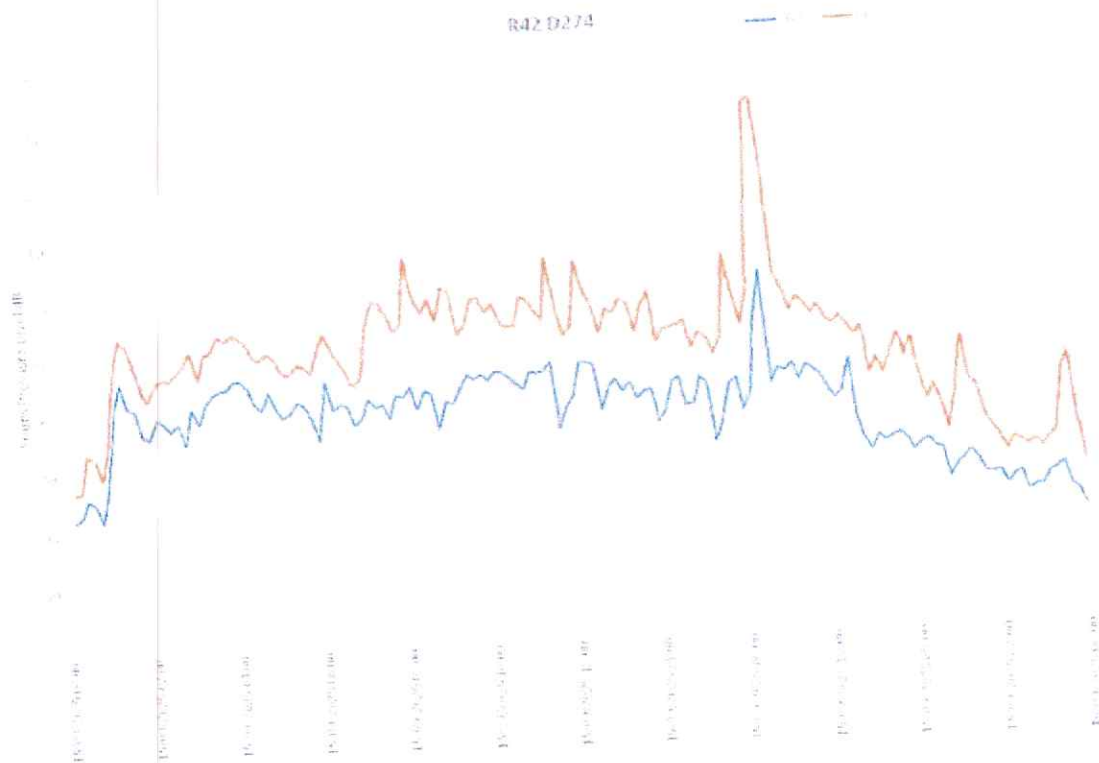


Figure 7

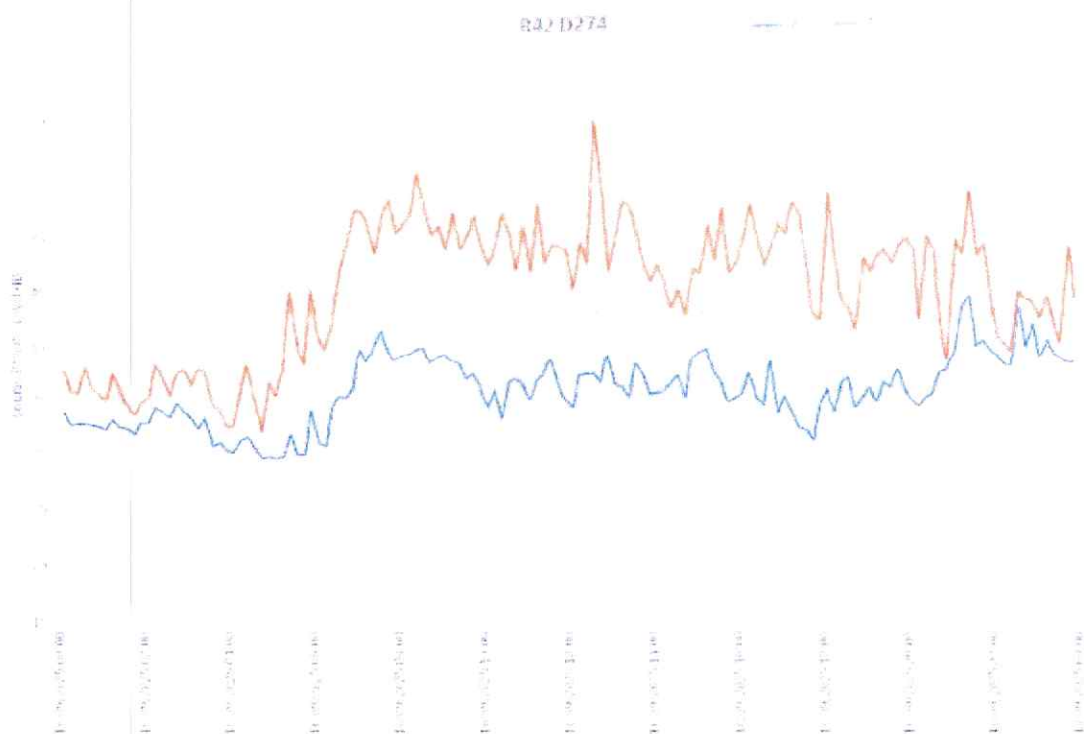


Figure 8



Noise Survey
R42 D274
Client: CEPA

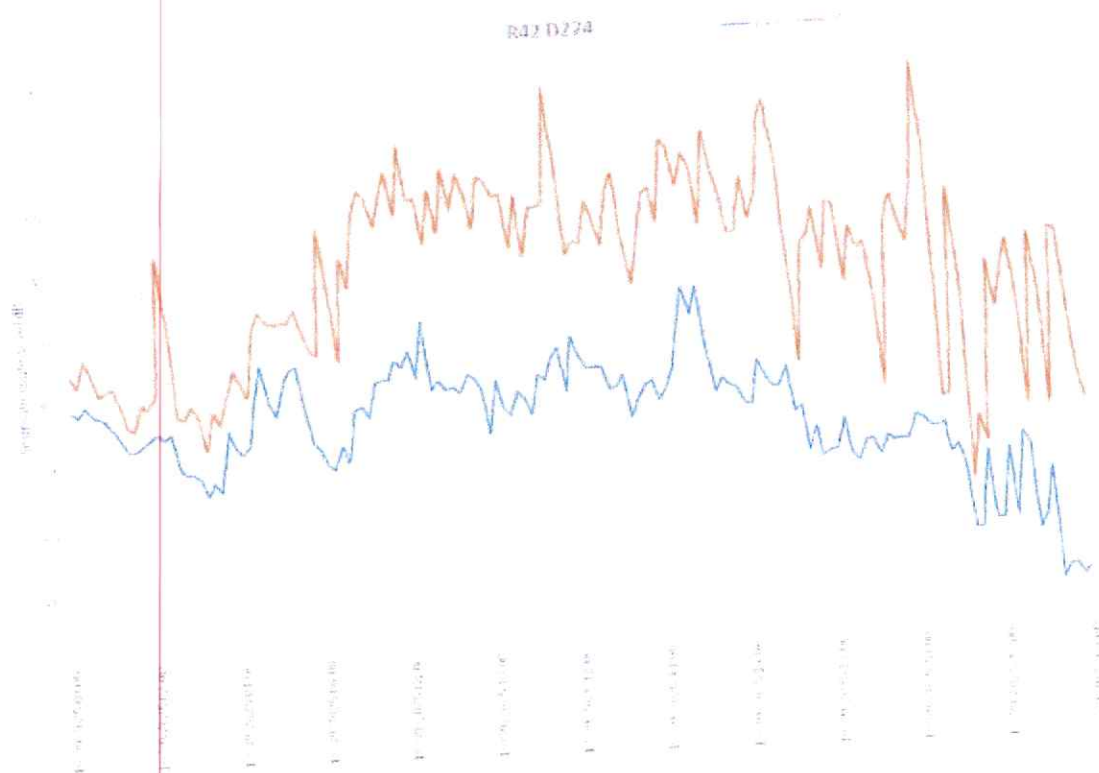


Figure 11

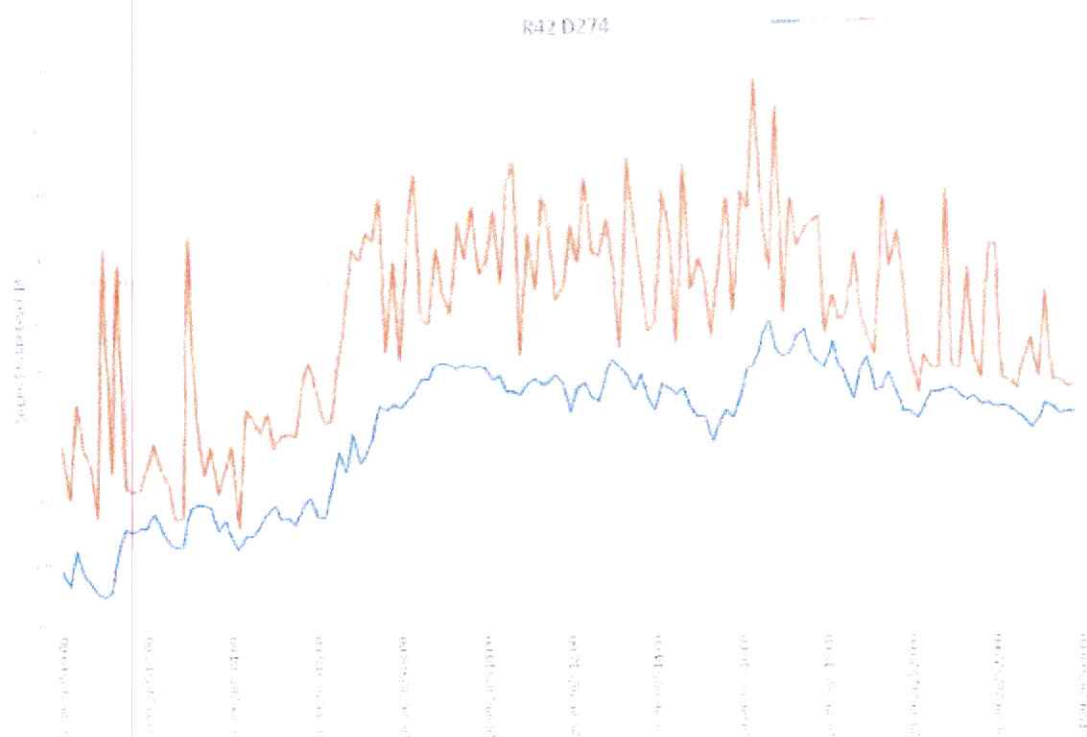


Figure 12

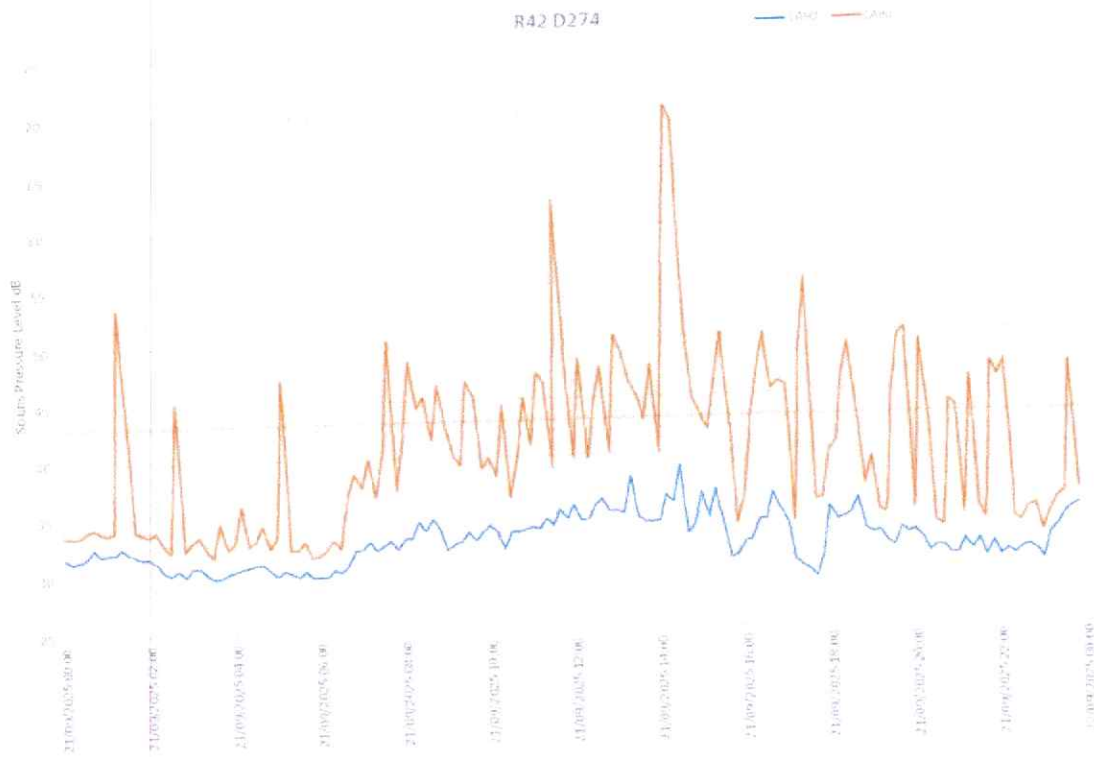


Figure 13

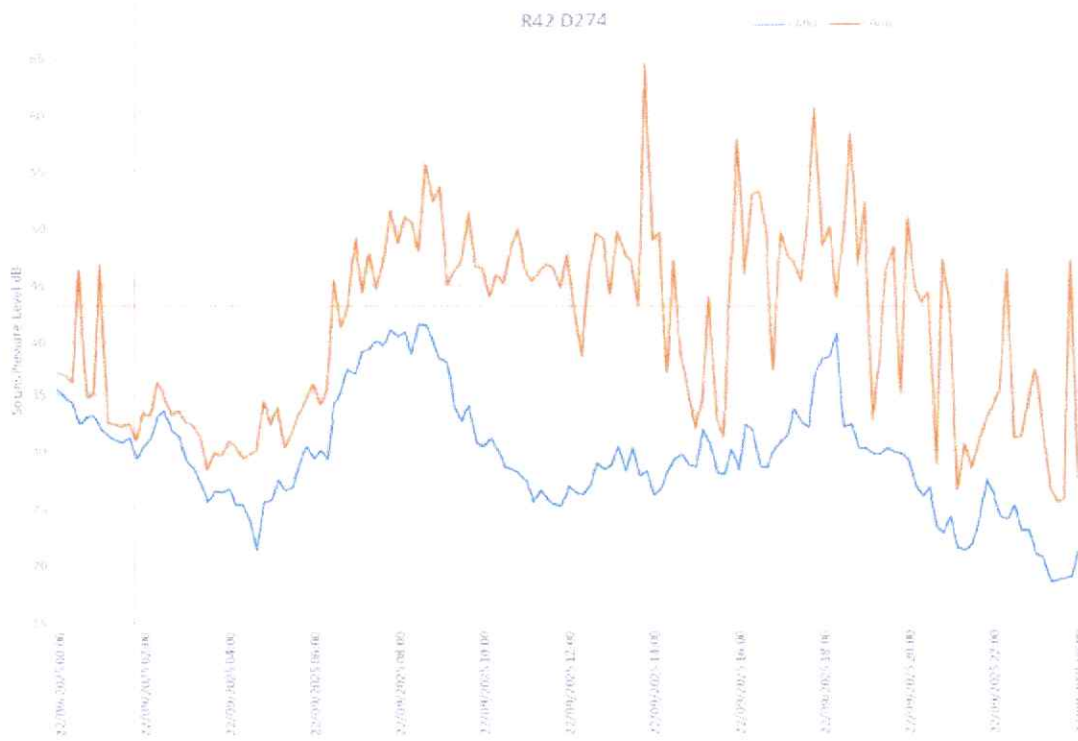


Figure 14

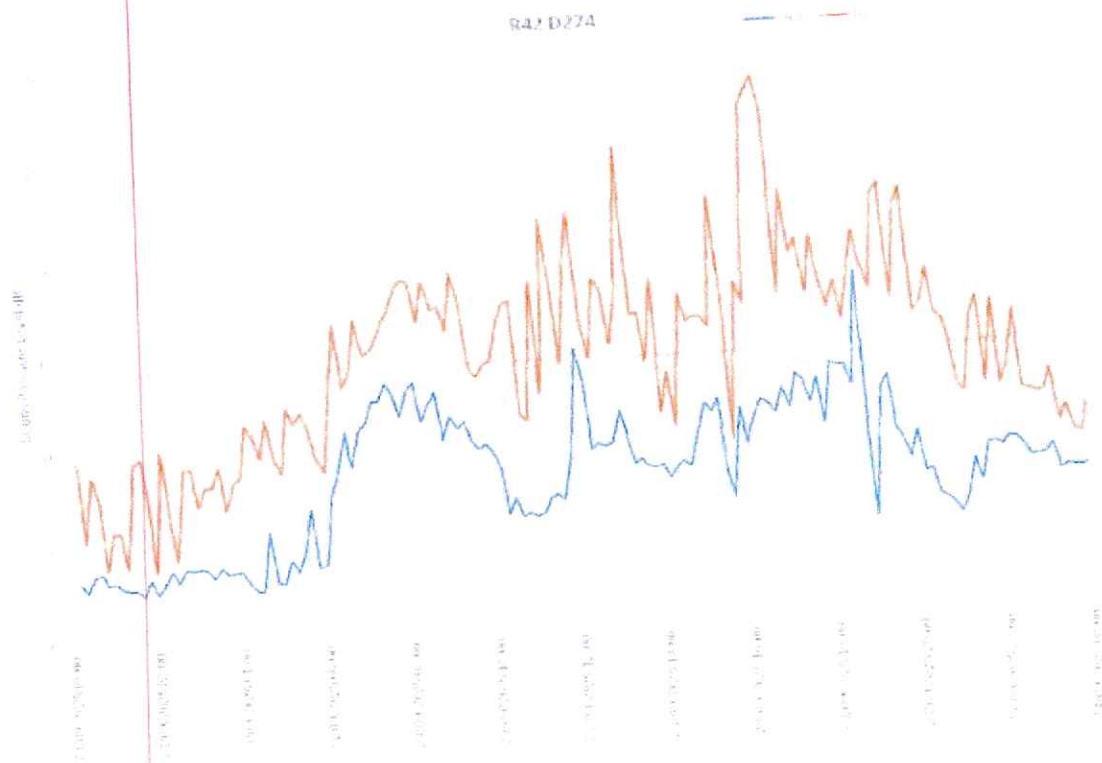


Figure 15

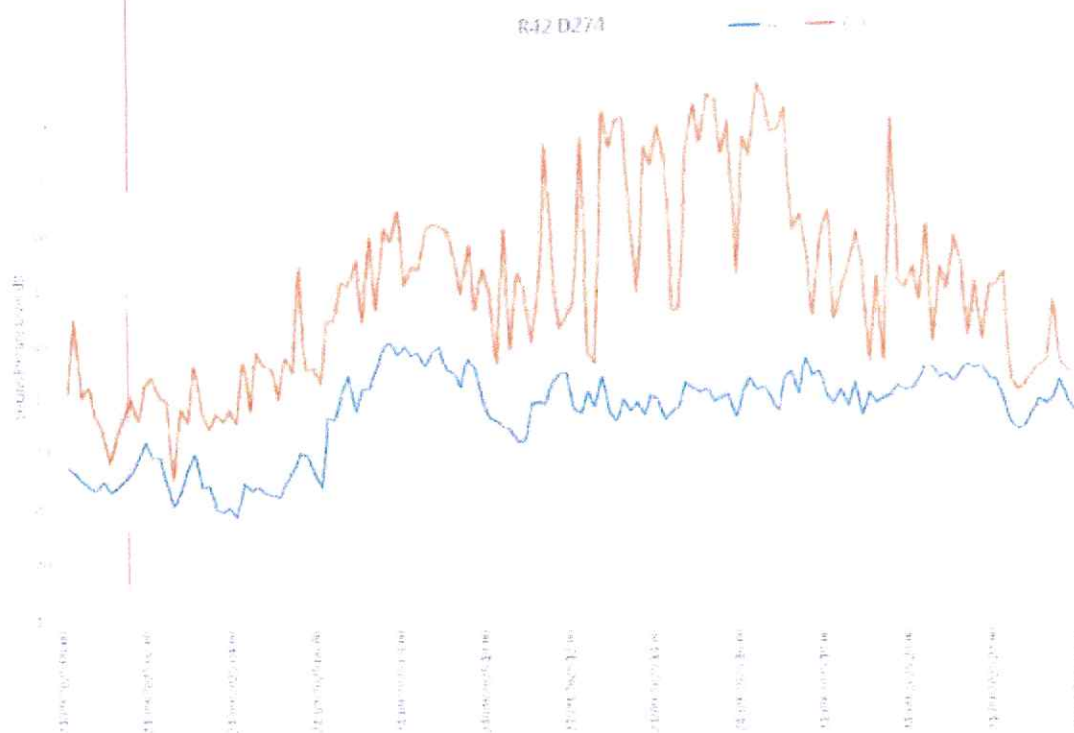


Figure 16

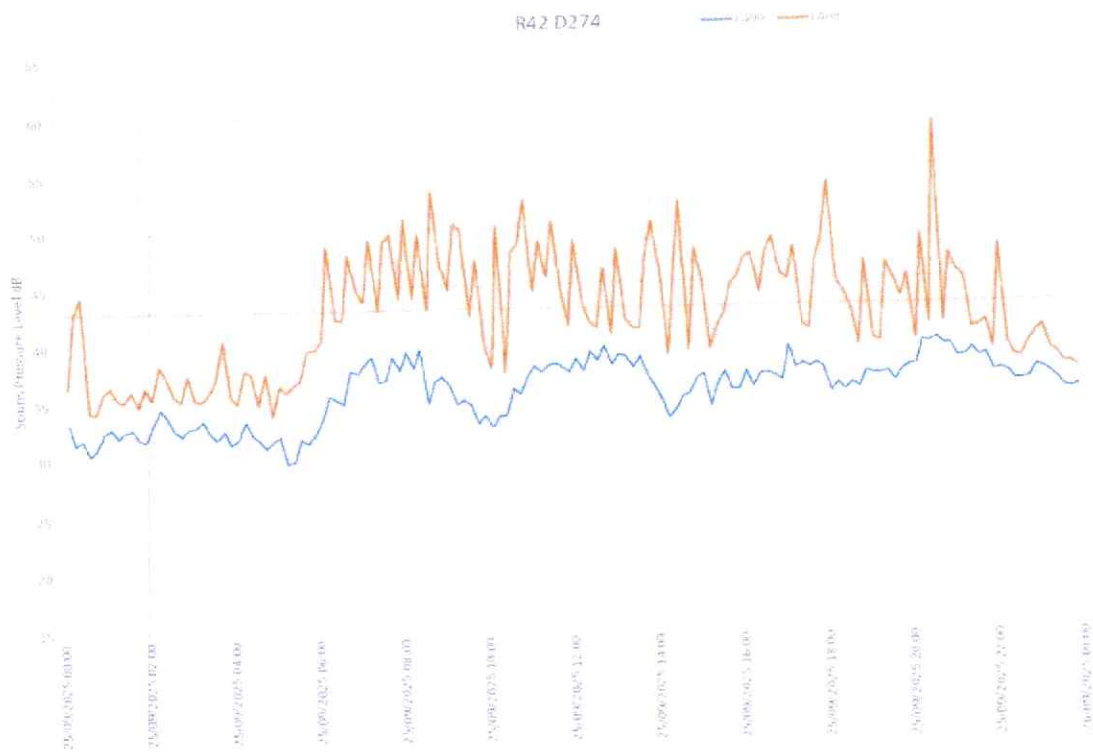


Figure 17

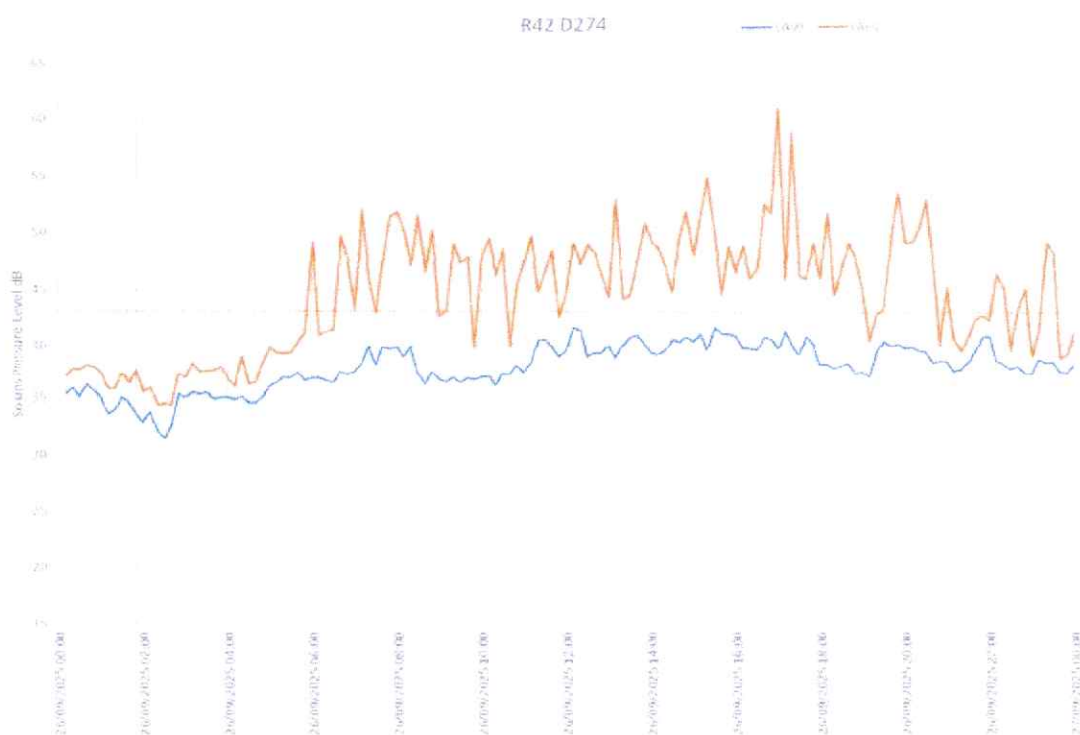


Figure 18

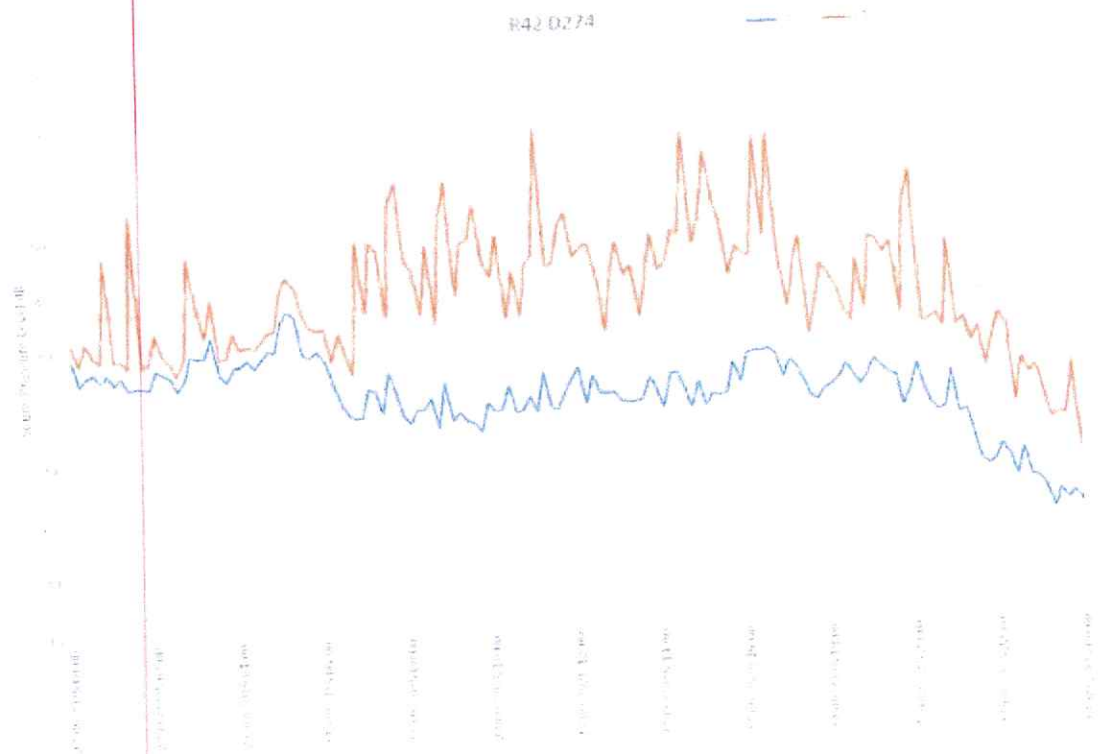


Figure 19

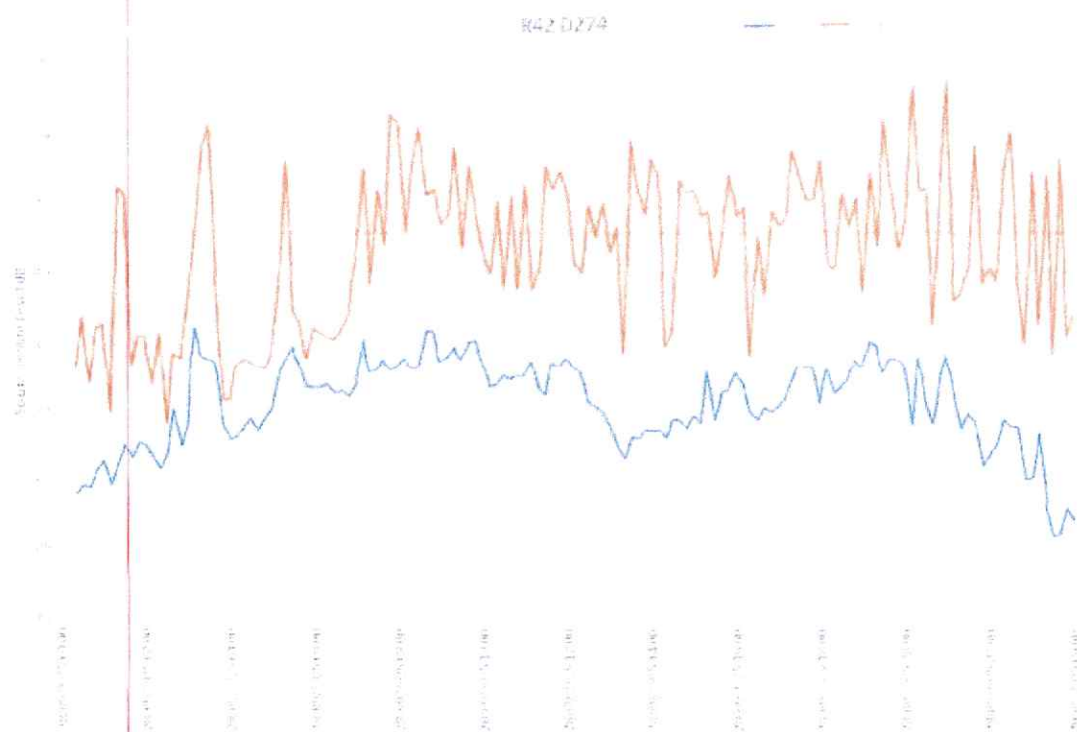


Figure 20

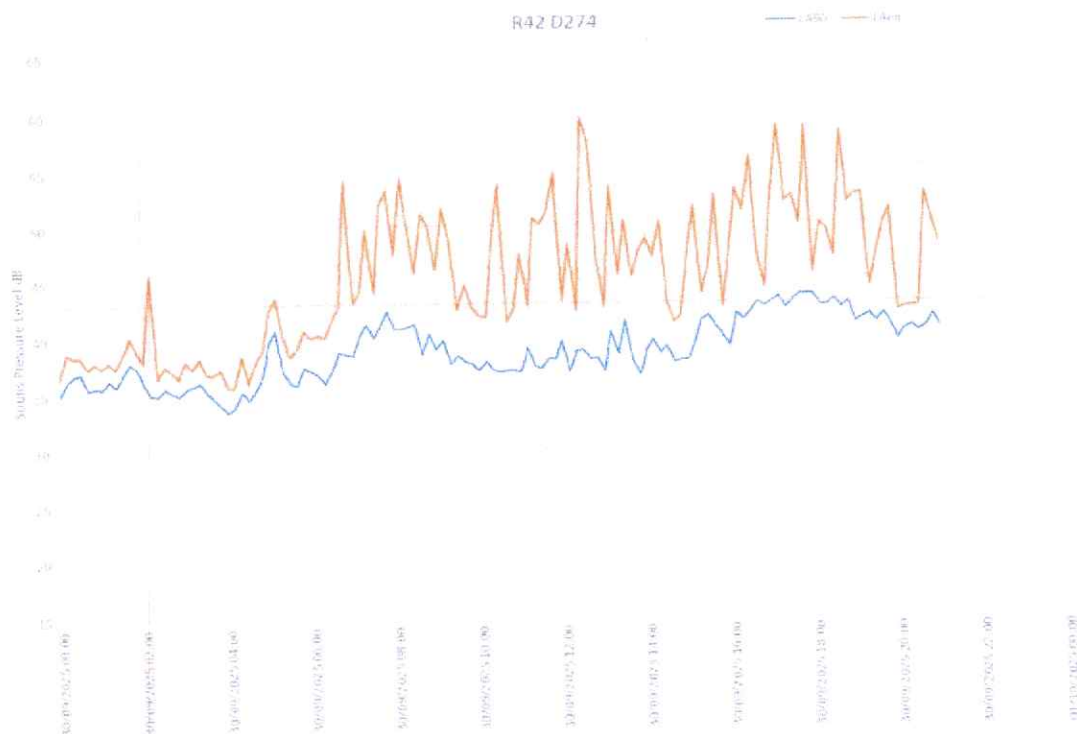


Figure 21

A resident provided diary notes listing nights when noise from the Cloghan Wind Farm was most prominent. The diary also noted times when different individual or all wind turbines were noticed to be inoperative.

SCADA data from the wind farm is presently unavailable for the survey period so the detailed analysis has focussed on one night from 10pm 16 September 2025 to 5am 17 September 2025 that the resident noted disrupted sleep. It is not known if all wind turbines were operating at this time. The diary note mentioned high winds on 15 September 2025. The permit condition requires an assessment of tonality and impulsiveness.

Analysis was made of continuous audio recordings (10-minute WAV files) and numerous sound level parameters sampled every 100ms.

Tonality

ISO1996-1:2017 refers to an objective test method (ISO/PAS 20065) that was used to assess tonal audibility.

Spectrum analysis shows that there are no constant tones observed in the recordings. However, tonal sounds are observed periodically. One example is a 403Hz tone that has a tonal audibility rating of 5.7 dB that can be seen in the spectrogram in Figure 23 around 4.25am 16 September 2025.

Impulsive sound

BS4142:2019 provides a method to assess impulsive sounds. A sound is impulsive if its level changes by more than 10 dB/second.

Figure 22 shows the dB(A) level changing during a 10-minute period from 4.20am 16 September 2025 that regularly demonstrate impulsiveness.

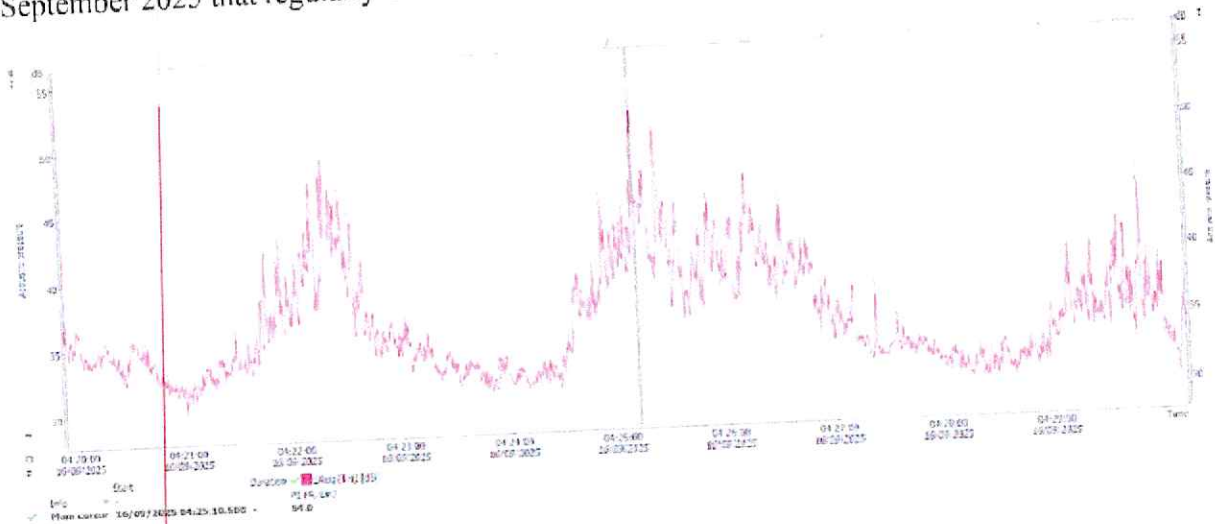


Figure 22

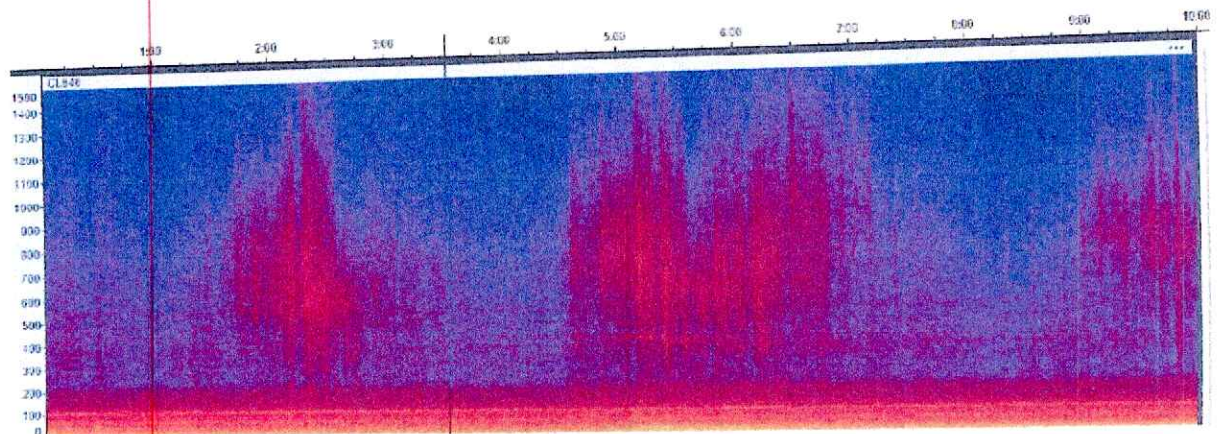


Figure 23 Spectrogram up to 1,500Hz of the data shown in Figure 22

The data demonstrating impulsive and tonal sounds were checked to ensure there was no extraneous noise that could give a false assessment.

SUMMARY

The 43 dB(A) L90(10-minute) wind farm noise limit was exceeded in the morning of 15 September 2025 in high winds.

No other period exceeded the permitted sound level after extraneous noise events were excluded.

Sound from the Cloghan Wind Farm exhibits impulsive sound characteristics.

Sound from the Cloghan Wind Farm is occasionally tonal.