

Policy paper: Noise action plans: large urban areas, roads and railways (2019)

Noise action plans (Round 3) for agglomerations (large urban areas), roads (including major roads) and railways (including major railways).

Anonymous hotline for forensic science professionals launched

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The new hotline, launched by the Forensic Science Regulator in association with Crimestoppers, will allow forensic science professionals to raise concerns about service quality to the Forensic Science Regulator without revealing their identity.

Quality failures, such as sample contamination or data manipulation, can mean innocent people are wrongly convicted or offenders escape justice. This line aims to ensure that any serious issues are flagged to the regulator even if an individual does not feel able to report through the whistleblowing procedures in their own organisation.

The service is run by Crimestoppers, whose agents will record the information provided and pass it to the Forensic Science Regulation Unit (FSRU), to investigate.

Forensic Science Regulator, Dr Gillian Tully, said:

I am delighted that the anonymous hotline is now live.

It is vital that forensic science provision to the Criminal Justice System is of the highest quality.

I hope this anonymous hotline will provide a route for anyone lacking the confidence to report an issue directly to their own organisation or to my office to come forward, so that I can investigate and ensure any necessary improvements are made.

The hotline also enables individuals to flag issues as a last resort when all other options have been exhausted. Individuals can phone 0800 917 0967 or use the online form at crimestoppers-uk.org/forensicregulator to anonymously report their concerns.

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Nick Hurd, said:

Forensic science is an invaluable tool for bringing criminals to justice, but we must ensure it works to the standards that the public expects.

I welcome the Forensic Science Regulator's new anonymous reporting line. It is important we have many routes to identify and prevent any issues within the system.

Downing Street Pride reception marks progress on LGBT Action Plan

New report due to be published this week shows a third of the government's four-year LGBT Action Plan has been delivered within 12 months.



To mark the first anniversary of the UK's landmark LGBT Action Plan, the government will publish a progress report later this week showing a third of the four year plan has already been delivered.

The strategy was launched after the world's largest survey of its kind revealed a number of concerning findings. Many respondents said that they feared being their open, honest and authentic selves – with more than two in three of those who participated in the survey saying they avoided holding hands with a same-sex partner in public for fear of a negative reaction, and 23 per cent saying people at work had reacted negatively to them being LGBT. Over half of those who accessed or tried to access mental health services said they had to wait too long.

Achievements within year one include:

- appointing Dr Michael Brady as the first National Adviser for LGBT Health, and awarding £1 million in funding to trial new ways to tackle LGBT health issues
- delivering an anti-homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying programme in more than 1,800 schools and reformed relationships and sex education
- updating the Hate Crime Action Plan and announcing a Law Commission review into hate crime to explore the effectiveness of existing legislation
- establishing a panel of independent experts to advise government on issues and policies concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people
- committing to hosting an international conference on LGBT equality in London next year

The report also sets out a list of ambitious commitments from the Action Plan for the government to focus on over the next year.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

I am proud to be the Prime Minister of a country which is consistently ranked among the most LGBT-friendly in the world, but last year's National LGBT survey showed that there is still lots more to do.

Our LGBT action plan contained more than 75 commitments, spanning the whole of government and the entirety of an LGBT person's life. It demonstrated that we took the results of that survey extremely seriously and I am pleased with how much we have delivered already while knowing there is a lot more to do.

Minister for Women and Equalities, Penny Mordaunt, said:

Everyone in the UK deserves the freedom to love whoever they love and to be themselves.

I would like to thank all of those people who have worked to deliver points in the action plan so far, but the recent protests in Birmingham, and violent attacks on LGBT people show we still need to keep pushing forward with decisive action.

The LGBT Action Plan is vital in our efforts to tackle prejudice and promote a diverse, tolerant society, and government will continue to treat it as an upmost priority.

Ruth Hunt, Chief Executive of Stonewall, said:

This year we're celebrating 30 years since Stonewall was formed, and reflecting how far we've come. We've made great progress for LGBT people but there's still much to do. It's vital the Government keeps LGBT equality high on their agenda because the UK should be leading the push for equality, for all LGBT people. The next crucial step is streamlining and de-medicalising the Gender Recognition Act, which will make a huge difference to the lives of trans people, both practically and by changing attitudes – and we hope there will be an announcement soon.

We're also pleased that the Government is prioritising equality in healthcare with the appointment of Michael Brady as the first National Adviser for LGBT Health. Health is still an area of discrimination for LGBT people, and we look forward to working with him to address this.

Later today, a Pride reception will take place in Downing Street to celebrate diversity and to recognise the contribution that lesbian, gay, bi and trans people make to the UK.

The reception will bring together members from across the LGBT community and will be attended by Stonewall's Ruth Hunt, English women's hockey players Helen and Kate Richardson-Walsh and Made in Chelsea's Ollie Locke.

British Embassy Asunción: call for bids 2019/2020

The British Embassy in Asunción is now accepting project proposals for the 2019/2020 financial year (26 August 2019 – 20 December 2019). Deadline for submission of proposals is Friday 19 July 2019 (until midnight, Paraguay time).

This year, the British Embassy will run a competitive bidding process seeking to support projects and activities up to USD 8,000 that deliver real and measurable outcomes in support of development in Paraguay. All expenditures must qualify as Official Development Assistance (ODA), as defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and have the promotion of economic development and welfare of the people of Paraguay as the main objective. We are particularly interested in projects proposals focused on the following thematic areas of work:

Inclusive Economic Growth and Improvement of Business Environment

Projects aiming to support inclusive economic growth and development for rural and urban disadvantaged groups; increasing accountability and transparency in key economic sectors or government institutions; supporting reforms and implementation of policies aimed at promoting conditions for open markets, such as, but not limited to promoting competitiveness, streamlining processes to facilitate trade, increasing sustainability and innovation, tackling corruption and bureaucracy, reducing the potential for illicit trade, economic crime and money laundry.

Human Rights

Strengthening freedom of press and safety of journalists, media workers and strengthening their legal rights; increasing participation of women in politics for positions of leadership and influence; increasing equality and non-discrimination, reducing violence against women, LGBT+, Afro-Paraguayan community, indigenous people and other disadvantaged groups; raising awareness and promoting gender equality; strengthening democratic governance and rule of law.

Note: Strengthening freedom of press is FC0's global priority this year.

Education

In particular, promoting girls education; capacity building programs for the improvement of educational system; access to formal education or opportunities for extracurricular education, including but not limited to: technology, language learning, sciences, and civic participation

Who may bid?

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible, your organisation or agency must be a legal entity, not-for-profit or commercial company, a registered non-governmental (NGO) or governmental organisation, academia, research institutions, and must demonstrate:

- Proof of legal registration
- Previous experience in delivering and managing projects
- Preferably previous experience working with international agencies/organisations

How to bid

Proposals should be sent by email using the attached forms to BE-Asuncion.Enquiries@fco.gov.uk. In the subject line of the email, please indicate "Project Bid_NAME OF ORGANISATION_" and include the project title.

Project bid guidance

- Projects are funded under a reimbursement scheme for a single financial year running from 26 August 2019 to 20 December 2019, with no expectations of continued funding beyond this period
- Minimum project budget USD 5,000
- Maximum project budget USD 8,000
- Please note that proposals near minimum and maximum can be considered
- Each institution may submit up to a maximum of 2 proposals

Project assessment

Project bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the above mentioned thematic areas
- Achievable outcomes within the funding period and sustainability after the funding ends
- Clear project design which includes monitoring and evaluation procedures
- Identified risks and planned mitigation
- The organisation's safeguarding policies that ensure protection of beneficiaries

- Demonstrated value for money in the Activity Based Budget (ABB) Process
- Ensure that the Activity Based Budget (ABB) is in the same currency as the bank account where funds reimbursements are to be received. Utilize the Excel template provided below
- Proposals must be received by midnight on 19 July 2019 (until midnight, Paraguay time). All proposals received in a different format or means to the one requested, in a language other than English and/or submitted after the set date and time will not be considered
- Proposals selected for further consideration and due diligence information will be notified by 6 August 2019
- The British Embassy in Asuncion aims to sign grant agreements with successful implementers between 12 and 20 August 2019
- Due to the high number of bids we receive, we are unable to provide detailed feedback to unsuccessful bids

Indicative timetable

Dates	Activities
2 July 2019	Call for bids announcement
10 July 2019	Online Q&A Session
19 July 2019	Deadline for implementers to submit Project Proposal Forms and Activity Based Budget
22 – 31 July 2019	Proposals reviewed by the British Embassy Asuncion's Projects Board.
6 August	Outcome of successful bid notified to implementers

Additional information and documentation

All implementers will be expected to sign a standard FCO contract or grant agreement with the Embassy. The terms of the contract or agreement are not negotiable.