

## ASSOCIATION OF NOISE CONSULTANTS

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 2.30pm

Online via Zoom ([register here](#))

### AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Review of Conference & Awards and plans for next meetings and events**
3. **Noise Cameras by Louise Morris (AtkinsRealis)** 2.45pm
4. **Registration Scheme charges 2025** 3.30pm

The ANC Registration Scheme has been running for twenty years and in that time over 560,000 individual tests have been logged on the system. When the Scheme was started, the intention was to provide a low-cost alternative to UKAS registration for consultants who were already members of the ANC and this is still the intention of the Scheme.

A working group have considered the current running costs and costs to members of the scheme and compared this with the potential alternatives open to members. With effect from January 2025, the proposed change involves a scaled membership fee based on volume of testing from the previous years with a minimal test 'certificate' fee. The proposal requires an assessment of the amount of testing being carried out by each member, based on the average of the previous three years to avoid significant good or bad years resulting in large fee changes for members.

5. **ANC committees and board updates:** 4.00pm
  - **Committee updates**
    - **Future Acousticians**
    - **Registration Scheme**
    - **Sustainability**
  - **BSI and ISO updates**
  - **Board updates**

A summary of activities over the last two months is attached.

6. **Technical Forum** 4.30pm
7. **Any Other Business**
8. **Date of Next Meetings:**  
24 September, 19 November

## 1. FINANCE

1.1. Test figures for May and June are 1719 and 1675 respectively. The first six months of the year have been almost identical to 2023 with a total of 9500 tests but this is just below the budget for the year of 20400 tests. The new model for the scheme finances will be presented at the Company meeting with the expectation that it will take effect from January 2025.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1. A new application has been received and is pending interview.  
2.2. The membership survey has been circulated to the 63 companies who participated. This shows a turnover of £53m with 656 employees and a mean size of 8 full time consultancy staff. At just over 50% of the membership in terms of companies and just over 60% in terms of staff numbers this is one of the best returns achieved for this report. There have been suggestions that some of the general data about company size be made part of a different survey which members are required to complete so that we have data that we can quote about the size of the sector.

## 3. EVENTS AND MEETINGS

3.1. The 2024 conference and awards took place on Wednesday 3 July at the Crowne Plaza, Birmingham. 109 people attended the conference and there were 97 people for the awards and dinner in the evening. Special thanks to the working group members who organised another successful conference – Louise Beamish, Vicky Wills, Heulwen Peters, Alec Korchev, Paul Shields and Mat Tuora.  
3.2. 26 entries from 17 companies were received for the awards and 10 categories were awarded on the night. Tom Wigglesworth, comedian and acoustics graduate, was the speaker for the evening. For a full list of the results see [here](#).  
3.3. The IOA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference is to take place on 12 September in Manchester and as a result the Board and Company meetings have been re-scheduled for 24 September.  
3.4. Suggested topics for future meetings or events include Building Regulations Part O, a presentation by Phil Dunbavin on BS 8233 at the September meeting and a survey techniques workshop aimed at younger staff. Members will be asked for feedback on the latter and dates need to be confirmed.

## 4. AGM and NEW BOARD

4.1. The AGM marked a change in offices and three new board members. The Board is now:

Louise Beamish	WSP	Chair
Ishmail Alli-Balogun	Carterhatch Architectural Acoustics	Vice Chair
David Watts	AIRO	Honorary Secretary
Robert Adnitt	Adnitt Acoustics	Honorary Treasurer
Heulwen Peters	SRL Technical Services	Board Member
Jonathan Howell	Peninsular Acoustics	Board Member
Yuyou Liu	AECOM	Board Member
Vince Taylor	SLR Consulting	Board Member

## 5. COMMITTEES

### 5.1. Future Acousticians

The committee met on 18 June. Members continued discussing plans for the mentorship programme, including the need to talk to university programme directors for an insight into how this could be done to benefit students. Also discussed were ways to better connect with other organisations and at events. The committee will meet again on 3 September.

## 5.2. Good Practice

The committee has not met since the previous Board meeting. The two new working groups have already met at least once (Construction Noise, chaired by David Owen from Arup and Low Frequency Impact Sound, chaired by Iain Critchley from Peninsular Acoustics) with the third one (Noise Barriers) yet to be formed. A request has been made for guidance on audio recordings as part of a noise survey, and what should be done with the audio information if it captures people in the recording – does GDPR apply or is that only if people are identifiable. The Board has been asked to consider if this should be a topic for a working group to look at.

## 5.3. Marketing

The committee has not met since the previous Board meeting. It had previously been noted the wording and subject of emails advertising the company meetings had been revised which had had a positive effect on attendance and this would be reviewed again at the next meeting. Work on promoting publications outside of the ANC is also ongoing and will be discussed further. The committee will meet again on 9 September.

## 5.4. Sustainability

The committee met on 3 June. Plans for publishing the initial batch of guidance documents were discussed and the first two of these – ‘Quality Education’ and ‘Biodiversity in Acoustics’ are now live on the [ANC website](#). The third – ‘Inclusivity in Acoustic Design’ – is being reviewed again following comments received. Members are continuing work on other documents to add to the series. The committee will meet again in August.

## 5.5. Membership Steering

The committee has not met since the previous Board meeting. Members are currently working on a number of issues – integrating the Code of Ethics into the Rules & Bylaws; professional indemnity insurance requirements; non-members owned by a member company; and a streamlining of the complaints procedure. The committee will meet again on 3 September.

## 6. REGISTRATION SCHEME

- 6.1. There have been 6 new testers so far in 2024 which is low for halfway through the year. There are 290 registered testers. The total number of companies is 72 as two new members have joined.
- 6.2. Updates to the automated report generation software have been requested and following a meeting with AJA to discuss these, the costs and timescale have to be agreed.
- 6.3. The external audit finally took place at the end of April and no issues were identified. The formal letter has been issued and will be added to the next update of the Handbook.

## 7. EXTERNAL

- 7.1. **Consultations:** a request to circulate a questionnaire on an BS 4142 app has been received from WSP and the University of Salford who are working with Defra on this. They have indicated they would like an ANC response so a group may need to be formed to compile this. Mike Brownstone represents ANC on the working group.
- 7.2. **Noise Abatement Society:** the Association has agreed to again co-sponsor the rising star award at the John Connell Awards to be held on 16 October at the Houses of Parliament. A small group needs to review the criteria for this award and commence promotion.
- 7.3. **UKAN+ :** a letter of support was sent for the third version of UKAN, and there is an event held in Manchester on 12 September to coincide with IOA conference. UKAN+ has invited expressions of interest (EoI) from its members to support networking, public engagement, advocacy and outreach activities.

## 8. WEBSITE

- 8.1. During May and June, the **website** page views were at 9,400 which is similar to the previous four months and lower than the regular level which is around 11,000 but this reflects the lack of any new content in recent months. The number of users was up at just under 3000. Member search continues as the most viewed page at 16%. The awards page attracted over 500 views in the built up to the event, whilst the AVO and Gym Guides both achieve over 200 views making them the most viewed publications. Noise nuisance and sound insulation testing pages continue to be

the only services pages that reach the top ten views. In the first week of July there are 500 views of the awards page as the results announcement drives people to the site. A review of the site and its content is a project for the latter part of the year.

## **9. PUBLICATIONS**

9.1. Eight copies of the Red Book have been sold in 2024 and none of the Green Book. Total sales of current editions are:

- Green Book: 123 copies for the second edition
- Red Book: 303 copies for the third edition.

## **10. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

The last period has been dominated by the conference and awards work which has pushed back some regular activities. Key items for the next period are:

- Arrangements for another event in 2024 if this is agreed
- Updates to the Auto Report software for the Scheme
- Reviewing the website structure and content and any more fundamental changes