



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

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Noise Insulation

Frequently asked Questions

What does noise insulation involve?

Where a new road is constructed, or an existing road altered, such that an increase in noise affects properties, the windows and doors in those properties may qualify for insulation, depending on the noise level outside those windows/ doors. In accordance with the Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995, each qualifying window would necessitate conversion to a Secondary Glazing (Double Window). Where a double window is installed, a ventilator unit, including air supply duct is installed and, in certain circumstances, venetian blinds between the panes of the double-window may be required. Each qualifying door would necessitate a secondary door to create a small lobby or, where this is not practical, a replacement door with improved sound insulation properties may be fitted.

What is Secondary Glazing (Double Window)?

Secondary Glazing (Double Window) is when an additional single or double-glazed unit is fitted behind existing glazing, to effectively create a single unit with a larger than 'normal' space between the units. The size of the space between the existing and additional glazing will typically be between 100mm and 200mm, whereas standard double-glazed units tend to have a space of between 12mm and 16mm between the individual panes of glass. The

larger space provides greater acoustic insulation, helping to reduce the ingress of external noise into a room.

How long will installation take?

This will vary from one property to another, though the contractor should be able to advise prior to the commencement of works.

What impact will the work have on my property?

During installation, the new secondary glazing unit will be put in place, but it is not always necessary to remove the existing window. The installation of the new ventilation unit in the external wall will involve a cut through the existing external wall to facilitate the controlled movement of air. The duration of works will be kept as short as possible and the contractor will be able to detail the proposed programme.

Will you replace the existing double glazing?

The use of replacement double-glazed units is not specified in the Noise Insulation Regulations and it is therefore not possible to provide them. The provision is for an additional glazed unit to go alongside the existing window, rather than the replacement of the existing.



Can I take the grant and complete the work in my own time?

When a grant is accepted, the work must then be completed within 12 months from the date the offer of a grant was accepted. Details on the grant process are summarised in the accompanying booklet.

Can I choose the make/style of windows/doors?

The make and style of windows/doors is that which is available from the Department's selected contractor.

Can I choose to have the secondary glazing but not the ventilation?

In the interest of the safe ventilation of your home, and to ensure that it is not necessary to open the double window in order to ventilate your home, it is important that any installed double window system is accompanied by an appropriate ventilation system, the specification of which is defined by the Regulations. It should be noted that any secondary glazing system should be able to be opened to allow cleaning.

Can secondary glazing be provided for unusually shaped windows such as bay windows?

Yes. The design and suitability will be appraised on a case by case basis.



What other items can be included in the installation work?

Where deemed necessary, localised fabric and decorations (not including curtains) affected by the installation of new windows, new doors, venetian blinds, permanent vents and ventilator units, will be made good.

Can I refuse the venetian blinds but accept the secondary glazing?

Your right to insulation work or a grant for insulation is not dependent on your acceptance of the installation of a venetian blind.

Will my conservatory or kitchen qualify?

Eligible rooms include living rooms and bedrooms only.

These FAQs should be read with the accompanying booklet (Your Guide to The Noise Insulation Regulations).

“Every day connecting people safely, supporting opportunities and creating sustainable living places”



Where can I find further information?

The Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995 are available online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1995/409/contents/made>

The Department's accompanying booklet for this leaflet is available at: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/article-22-land-acquisition-and-compensation-northern-ireland-order-1973-noise-noise>

This document is available in a range of formats, please contact us at:

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