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**Position statement from the Association of Acoustic Consultants of Ireland on Sound Insulation Testing Services in Ireland (for Architects, Assigned Certifiers, Engineers, Local Authorities and Building Contractors)**

The Building Regulations Technical Guidance Document (TGD)- E: 2014 states:

*“To ensure a proper standard of testing, it is essential that persons are competent in the measurement of sound insulation in buildings\*\* possess sufficient training, experience and knowledge appropriate to the nature of the work he or she is required to perform having particular regard to the size and complexity of such works”.*

*\*\* “Sound insulation tests carried out by a person certified by an independent third party to carry out this work offers a way of ensuring that such certification can be relied upon”.*

The Association of Acoustic Consultants of Ireland (AACI) was concerned at the intent of this statement and has sought clarification from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, particularly with regard to competency requirements for persons carrying out sound insulation testing. In its response, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has stated that it:

- neither offers nor endorses any individual scheme,
- is of the view that the only guidance that should be relied upon henceforth is that which is contained in TGD-E: 2014, and
- recognise that competence can be demonstrated not only through experience but also through formal post-graduate qualification in Building Acoustics, relevant training, CPD and experience in the area of sound insulation testing.

A number of AACI members have been independently trained in advanced sound insulation testing by the UK Sound Research Laboratory, a suitable independent third party, and all members hold formal post-graduate qualifications in acoustics and are therefore in a position to offer design and remedial advice alongside testing services. Furthermore, all members are bound by a strict code of conduct, ensuring that they do not undertake work outside their area of expertise and providing comfort and peace of mind for professionals that seek suitably qualified and experienced personnel to carry out sound insulation testing.

The Association of Acoustic Consultants of Ireland is in full agreement with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to the intent of TGD-E: 2014 and its specific guidance on tester competency as defined within.

**Prepared by the elected Committee of the AACI and Chair of the AACI (Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020).**