

Report

**Preliminary Survey
on the perceptions
of Noise
conducted in December 2009**

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Background

The Noise Abatement Society of Malta (NASM) has recently been set up with a view to promoting a quieter Malta by campaigning against the hazards of excessive noise. NASM's website, which was in an advanced stage of finalisation as at the date of this Report, will explain this in more detail.

All those who find that noise is a significant irritant will no doubt welcome any such collective effort to promote a quieter Malta and would accordingly wish to support it.

When setting up NASM it was however not immediately clear how widespread such support could be. But it appeared logical to predict that anybody who is annoyed by noise, and wishes to support any effort that is made to curb this nuisance, will be more inclined to do so meaningfully if such effort can be seen to be:

- ◆ driven by reasonably reliable insights as to how noise is viewed by society at large (requisite 1)
- ◆ backed by a well researched understanding of the underlying techno-legal issues (requisite 2)
- ◆ underpinned by organisational structures / procedures that can deliver results efficiently (requisite 3)

This paper deals with requisite 1, namely with acquiring reasonably reliable insights as to how noise is viewed by society at large at this time.

Ideally the desired insight into society's perception of noise would be procured by extensive in-depth research.

However the costs of extensive research are not insignificant and quite beyond the resources of a fledgling organisation such as NASM. Indeed, even more modest initiatives are beyond its financial reach at this early time.

Nevertheless it was felt to be imprudent, even at this early stage, to abandon any attempt at undertaking some appropriate research.

In these circumstances, and having consulted with marketing professionals, a simple and relatively inexpensive preliminary survey has been privately undertaken and funded, with a view to at least obtaining a reasonably fair start-off indication of how people feel about noise and its related risks / management issues, such as they perceive them to be, or not, at this time.

This paper reports on the results of the said preliminary survey and is presented with the heading "Report – Preliminary Survey on the perceptions of Noise, conducted in December 2009".

The said Report has been gratuitously made available to the NASM on the express understanding that:

- (a) The said results may be featured on the NASM website solely on the basis of the full Report being carried on the website.
- (b) Extracts from the said full Report may not be passed on, or be featured by NASM, unless the said full Report is so carried on the NASM website and unless any such extracts carry the "source statement" as reproduced hereunder:

Extracts from a report on a Preliminary Survey of
303 respondents conducted in December 2009.
The full report is available on the NASM website.

Planning and organisation

Foreword

The research undertaken could not have been carried out were it not for the volunteered services of marketing professionals who, together with certain NASM members, gave freely of their time to design and print the interview questionnaires, code the responses, tabulate and analyse the resulting data and draft this paper.

This limited the expense to the carrying out of the interviews themselves which was done by five university students.

The volunteered inputs of Prof Albert Caruana were particularly valued as the directional and technical caveats contributed by him underpin the conclusions presented in this report, as 'Commentary on the research outcomes' and 'Overall Results', which accordingly duly reflect the caution that must prudently inform the assessment of data deriving from a preliminary survey exercise addressing a relatively small sample of 303 respondents.

The questionnaire

A print of the questionnaire is reproduced at Appendix 1.

The interviewing protocol

A print of the interviewing protocol is reproduced at Appendix 8.

The interviews

The interviews were carried out at three locations, namely the entrances to Valletta (City Gate), the Plaza in Sliema and Pavi in Qormi. In all, three hundred and three interviews were carried out over a period of 9 days between the 30th November and 8th December 2009 in 18 sessions primarily in the mornings and then mid-afternoon as per details given at Appendix 9.

Coding the responses

To ensure consistency, the coding of all the responses was dealt with by one person in a manner designed to obviate the risk of incorrect input (see details in Appendix 10) so as to produce data whereby SPSS could be run in a meaningful way.

Commentary on the research outcomes

Foreword

When addressing the outcomes of this preliminary survey the primary concern was to establish whether the research exercise was flawed by any bias resulting from the sample population interviewed not being representative across the characteristics queried (gender, age and location of residence) and / or from the size of the sample and / or from poor data collection.

The latter was tested across the interview locations and while some differences resulted these did not appear to represent any systematic bias due to poor data collection. (Appendix 7 refers).

Other Appendices deal with the gender, age and location of residence characteristics that were queried. These Appendices are briefly commented on below.

Gender

Cross tabulation of all the responses according to the gender of the 301 respondents where gender was recorded (2 having been left blank) shows that males and females respond in the same way for all questions except for the opening question ("Does noise annoy you") where females exhibit a higher level of bother from noise.

Thus, even though the sample has an over representation of females (probably deriving from the interview localities) the outcome of these cross tabulations provides comfort that this over representation has no effect on the results (Appendix 3 refers).

Age

Cross tabulation of all the responses according to age (under or over 38) reveals that there are differences with, for example, older people demonstrating a higher level of intolerance to petards and amplified music.

Interestingly, while the sample size in effect proved to be too small to go beyond indicating the probability that there seemed to be no age-driven differences to the 'Have you ever complained' and 'Who to' responses, this lack of difference can be asserted with more certainty in response to the question seeking to establish the reasons why people have responded that they have not complained. Both age groups here show a combined high selection of the 'no one cares' and 'no effective enforcement' options. Disaffection spanned across the age groups.

Older people exhibited more certainty on the harmful effects of excessive noise on hearing and health, but even though the aforesaid sample size problem applies also here, there can be no doubt, from the responses received, that an overwhelming majority of both age groups are fully aware of the hazards implicit in excessive noise.

Appendix 4 provides the detail underpinning these observations and, while duly recording that there is a statistically significant variance by age group in the response to "Does noise annoy you", it also highlights that because the sampled population produced some over representation of those in the 19-20 year old category this probably translates into the Preliminary Survey providing an under representation of the overall level of the negative perceptions regarding noise for the reasons mentioned above and detailed in that Appendix's cross tabulations.

The degree of irritation and concern caused by noise may therefore well be quite more serious than the already high level presented in this Report under "Overall results"

Commentary on the research outcomes (ctd)

Location of residence

Cross tabulation of all the responses according to location of residence was effected by classifying the various localities according to the electoral districts, Districts 1 to 6 being grouped as 'District S' and electoral districts 7 to 12 being grouped as 'District N'. As 2 respondents hailed from Gozo (electoral district 13) this cross tabulation accordingly addressed 301 responses instead of 303.

No statistical differences were noted except with respect to construction noise. This type of noise irritates people in District N rather more than in District S. Possibly more construction takes place in the electoral districts (7 to 12) comprised in District N. (Appendix 5 refers).

Statistical tests

The statistical tests carried out have also served to suggest that the margin of error of 5.63% (at a confidence level of 95%) that is normally applied to a sample size of 303 can be safely relied on in respect of all the responses except for the slight peripheral instances mainly as indicated broadly above and as also featured more specifically in the technical assessments carried in the various relevant Appendices.

While being duly noted in the said Appendices, these divergences, have not, however, been deemed to be sufficiently material to warrant that the relevant responses be dealt with separately and they have therefore been included within the overall results in this Report's main body headed "Overall Results".

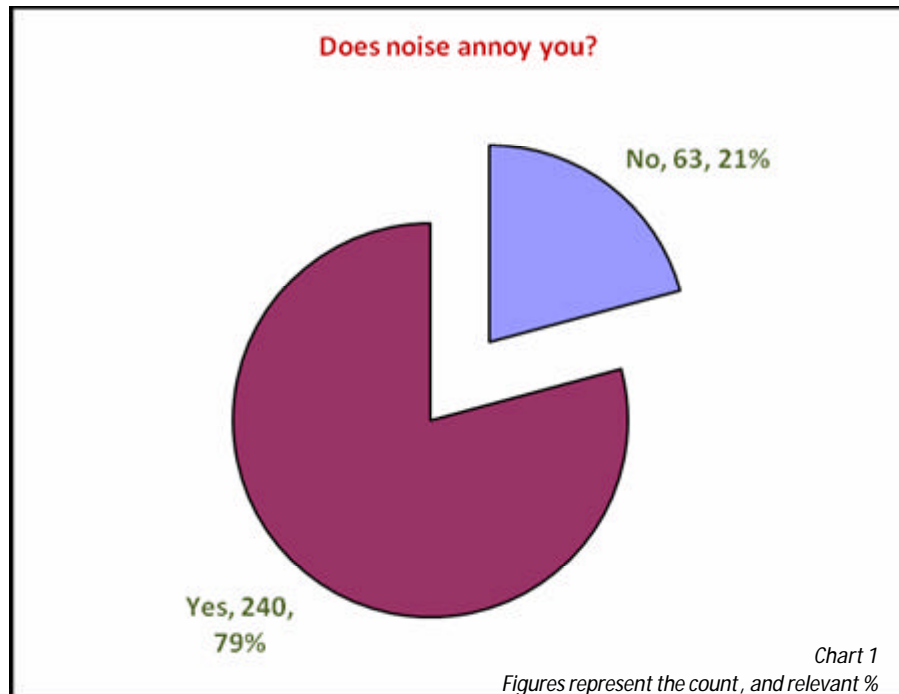
Overall assessment

The results of a preliminary survey such as the one being reported on should, of course, properly be treated as being only indicative and generalisations to the whole population should be done with caution.

Nevertheless, in the light of the analysis done as detailed in the Appendices, it has on balance been deemed reasonable to consider that the "Overall Results" of the Preliminary Survey as reproduced hereunder provide a reasonably fair start-off indication of how people in Malta feel about noise and its related risks / management issues, such as they perceive them to be, or not, at this time.

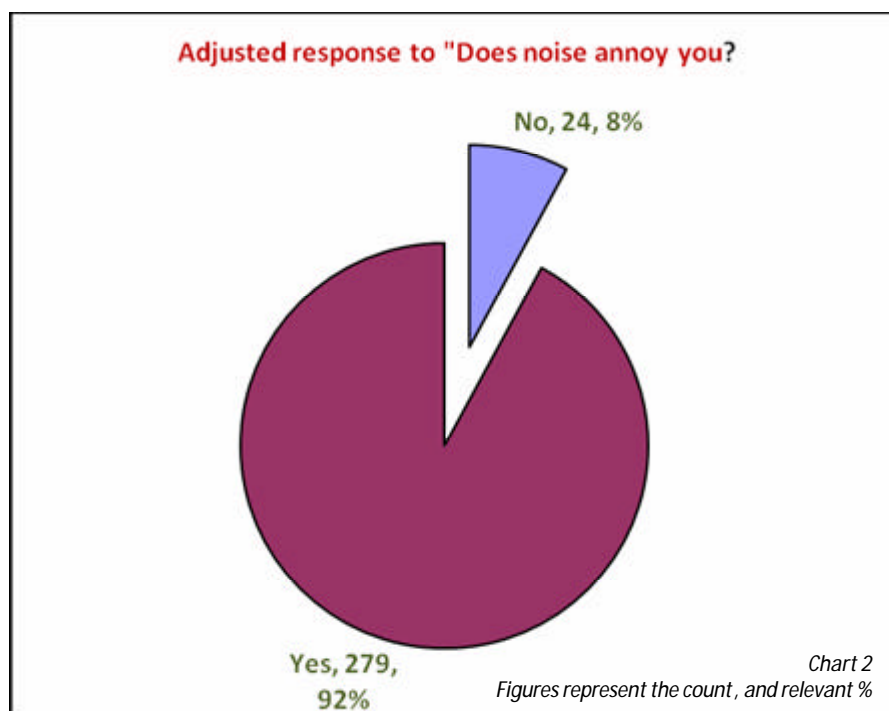
Overall results

As much as 21% of respondents stated that they were not annoyed by noise in reply to the unprompted question asked at the commencement of the interview.



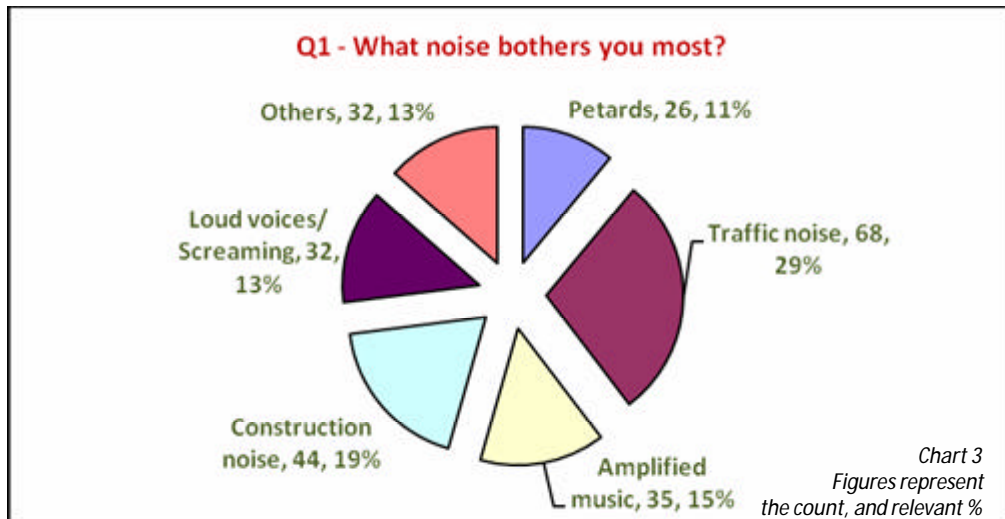
However when asked to confirm their non-annoyance in respect of certain noise types 39 of the 63 who had originally answered 'no' to this opening question then recorded annoyance levels in regard to the prompted noise types as shown at Appendix 6.

This reduces the percentage of respondents who were truly unaffected by noise to just 8%.

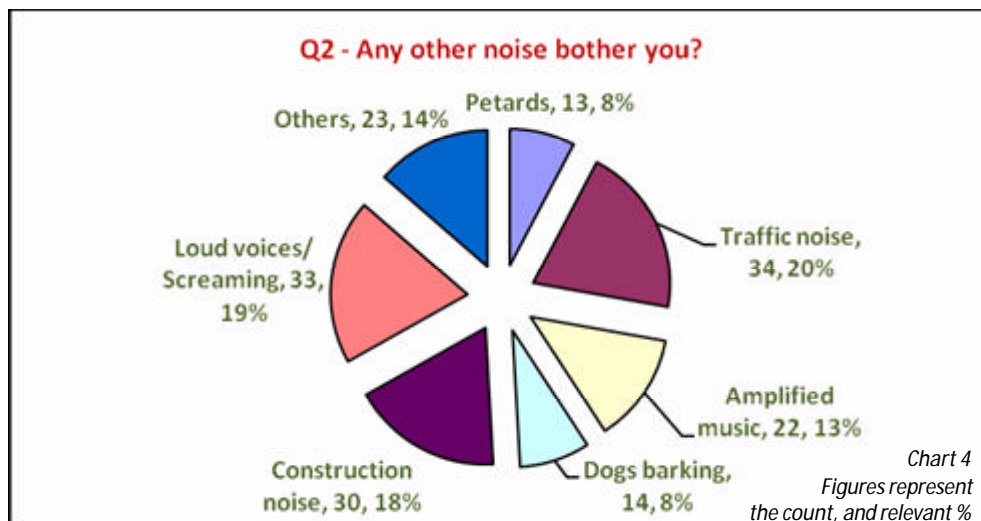


Overall results (ctd)

237 respondents (representing 78% of the total sample of 303) volunteered the noise types that bothered them most in reply to Q1. Of these Traffic Noise was the main concern followed by Construction noise, Amplified music, Loud voices / screaming and Petards.



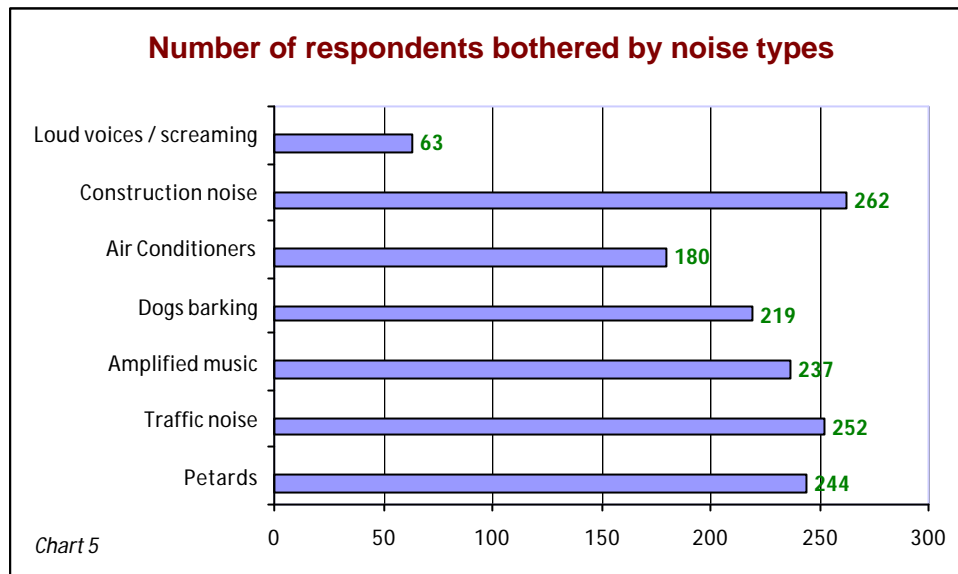
The situation was not vastly different in response to the follow-up Q2 which asked "Any other noise bothers you?". Here, however, where the number of responses totalled 169 (56% of the total sample of 303), "Dogs barking" came in at a significant enough level to merit note.



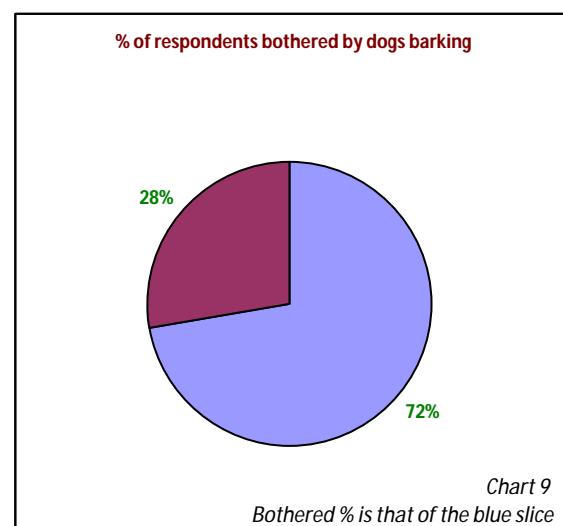
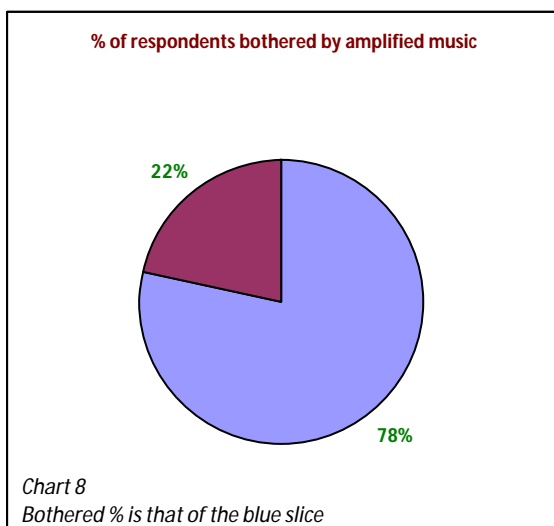
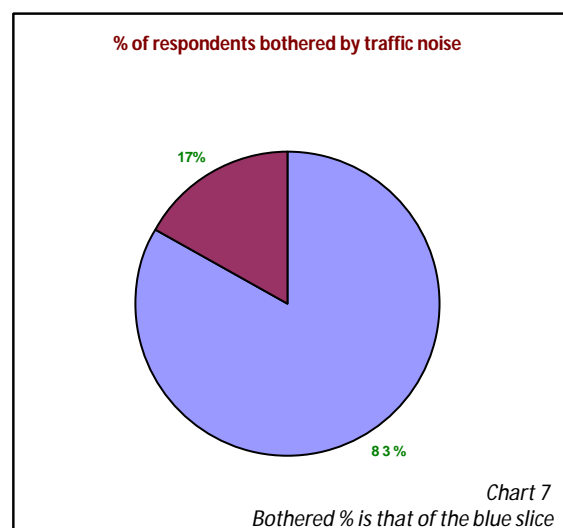
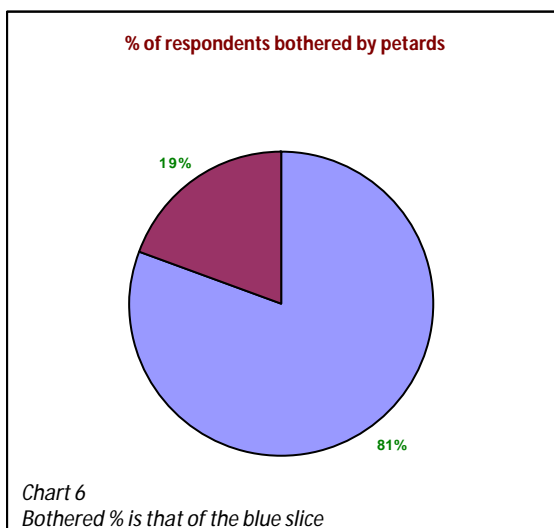
Q3 asked respondents "How would you describe your view of these noise types?" giving a selection of 6 noise types and allowing the respondents to add their own. In the event only one other noise type was volunteered to any significant extent, namely "Loud voices / screaming".

The number of respondents who registered an annoyance level in respect of these seven noise types is shown in the next table (Chart 5).

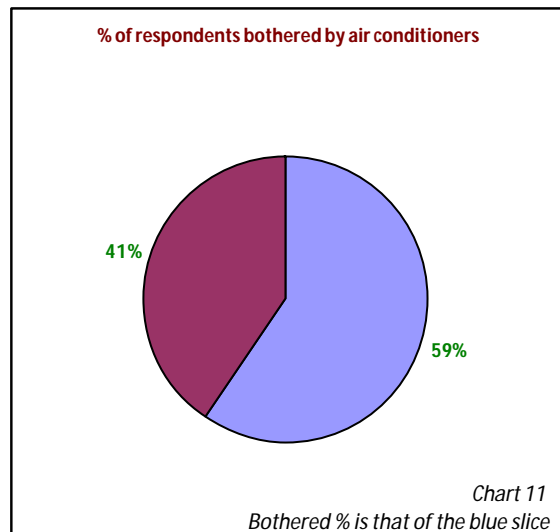
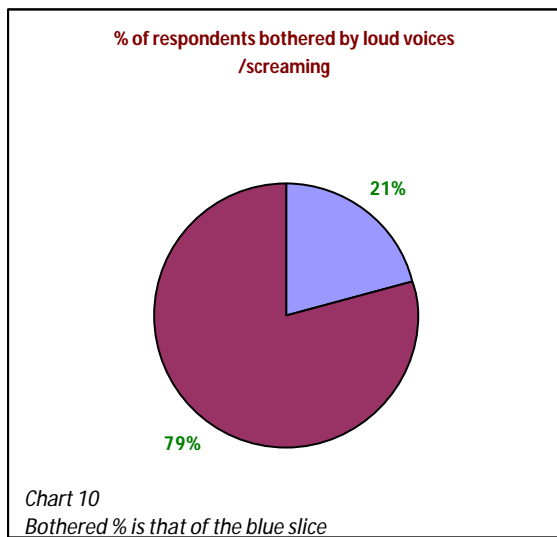
Overall results (ctd)



The following Charts (6 – 12) express the foregoing numbers as a percentage of the sample (303).



Overall results (ctd)

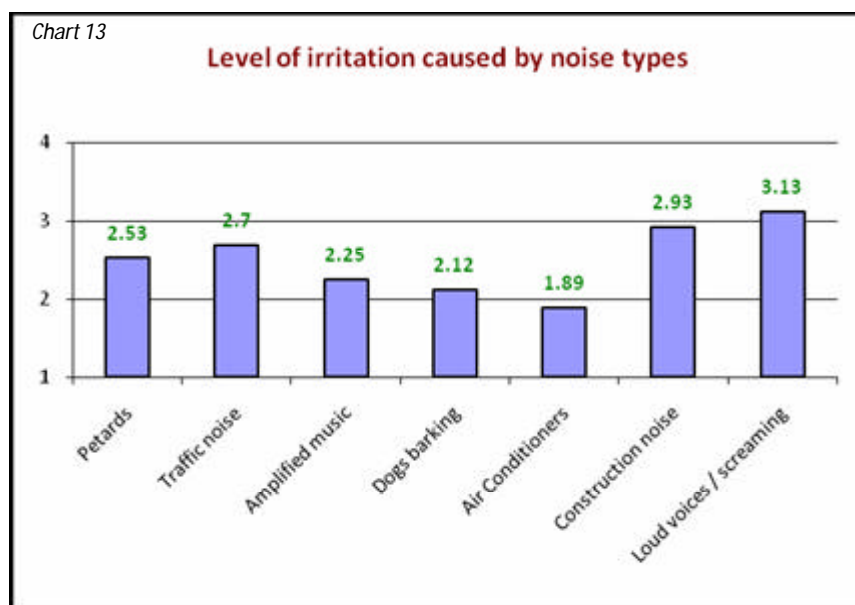
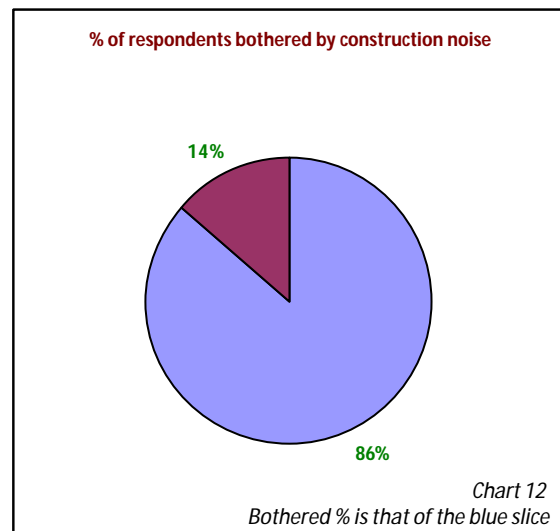


As already stated, of the noise types volunteered by respondents, only loud voices / screaming, was mentioned by a high enough number of respondents (63) to warrant inclusion in Chart 5.

The next highest number was 11 respondents who volunteered cars racing / speeding, then followed by bells & alarms with just 5 each. See Appendix 2.

The mean levels of irritation for the noise types having the largest number of responses are shown in Chart 13 below on a range of from 1 to 4 where:

[1 = Noticeable] [3 = Very annoying]
[2 = Annoying] [4 = Unbearable].

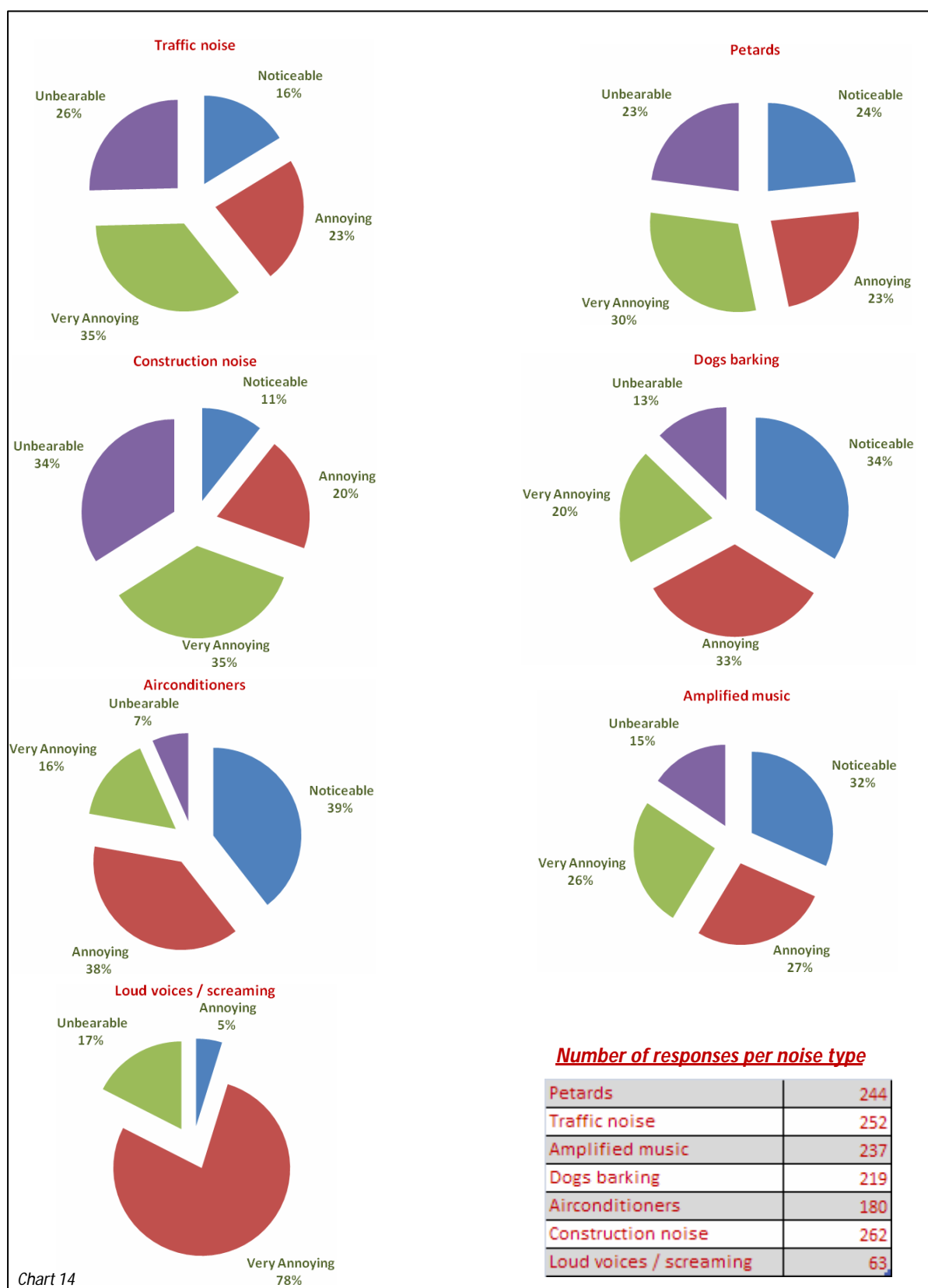


It is of course not surprising that the level of irritation attached to the volunteered noise type ranged higher than the prompted ones.

It is however significant that the mean level tops level 2 ("Annoying") for all but air conditioners. This means that the number of responses at the "Very Annoying" / "Unbearable" levels is high.

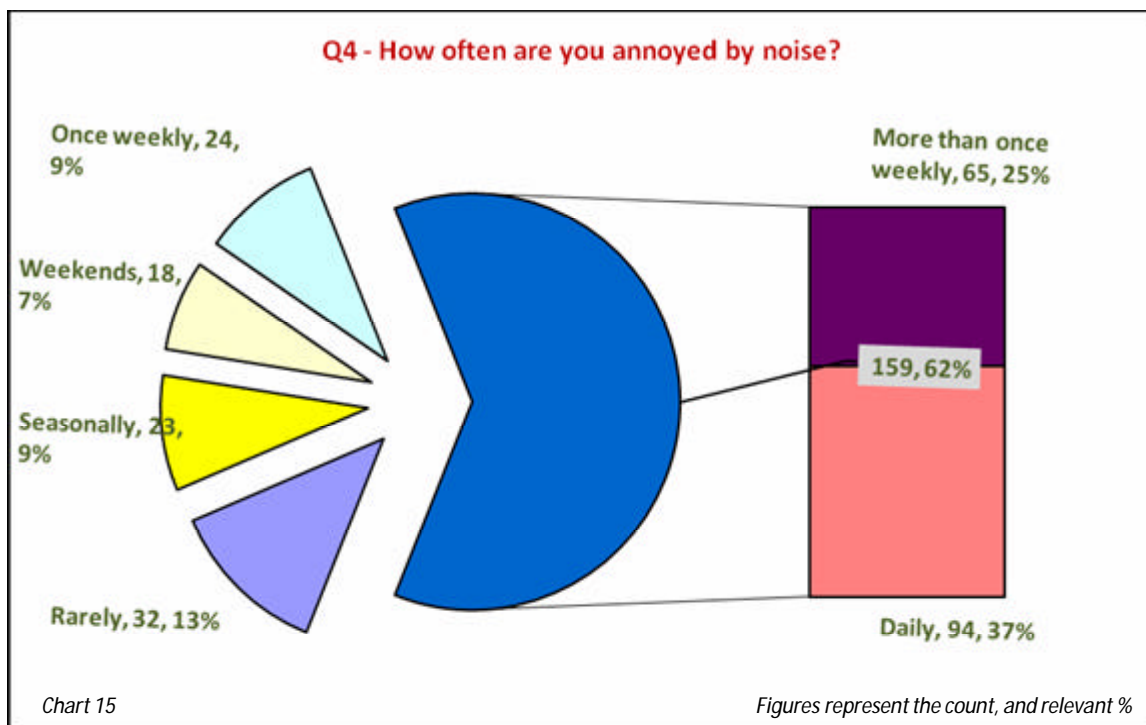
The high incidence of "Very Annoying" / "Unbearable" responses is shown in Chart 14.

Overall results (ctd)

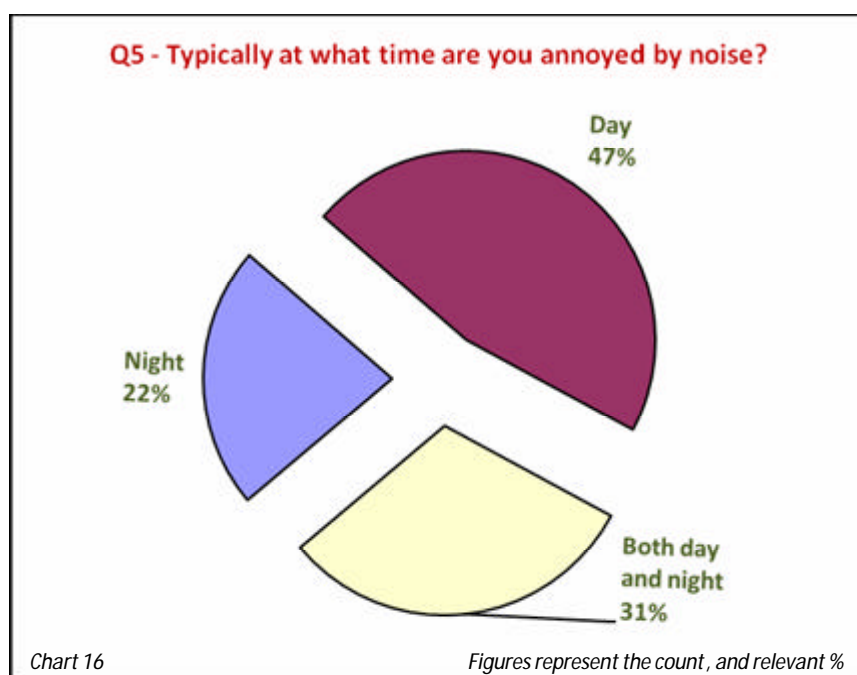


This clearly demonstrated very high level of irritation caused by noise is further aggravated by the frequency with which it occurs. Fully 62% of the 256 who responded to this question (Q4 – How often are you annoyed by noise?) are so disturbed more than once weekly with 37% reporting that they are being upset by the nuisance of noise daily. See Chart 15.

Overall results (ctd)

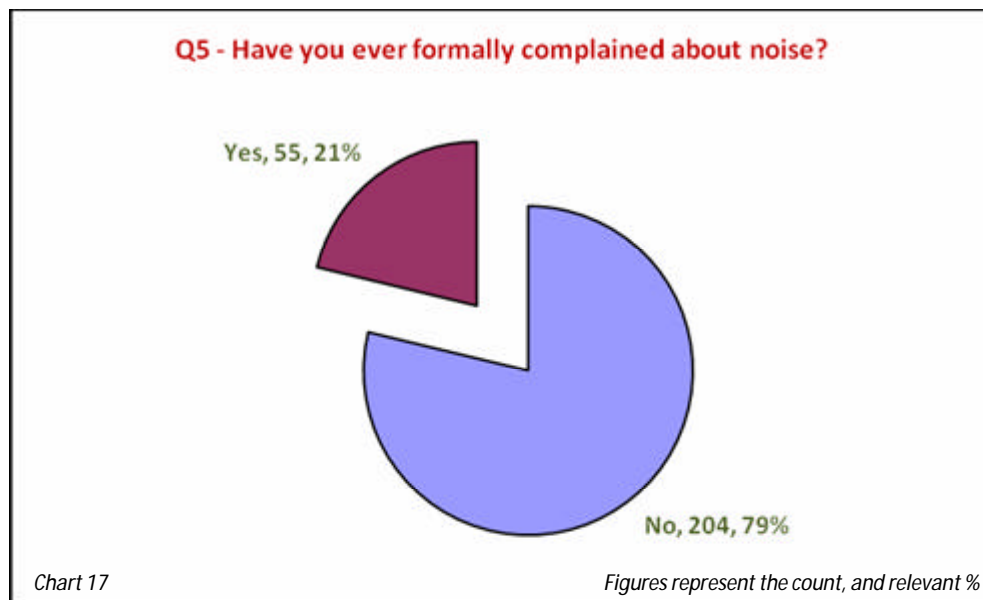


There were slightly less responses, 245, to the further question as to the time that this noise irritant occurred. With as much as 21% being bothered at night, and 31% both at night and during the day, the noise pollution problem is self evident and, in this regard, it is a small consolation that 47% of the 245 respondents report that they are afflicted with annoying noise intrusions only in daytime, as shown in Chart 16.

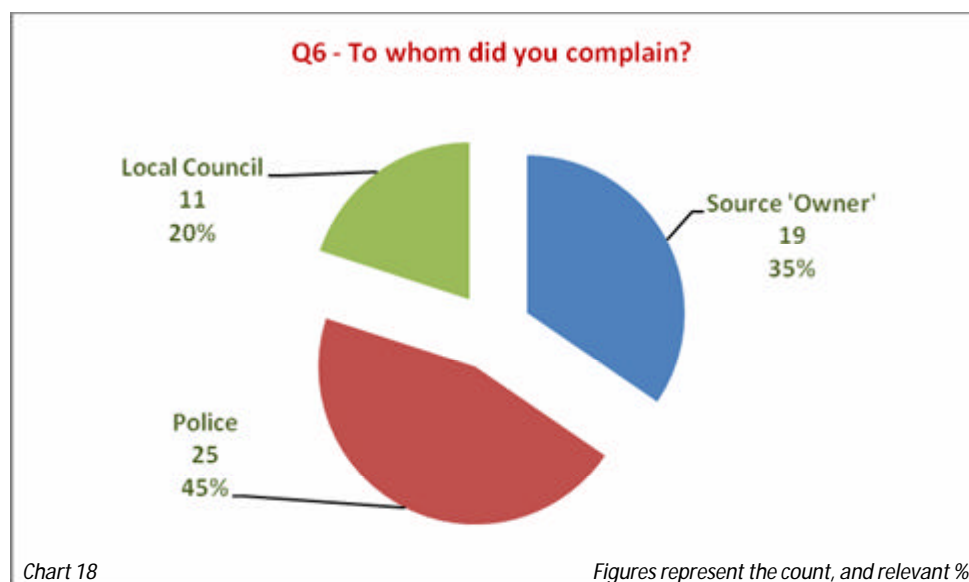


Overall results (ctd)

Given the high frequency of noise nuisance and the elevated level of irritation at which it occurs it is somewhat surprising that so few (just 21% of the 259 respondents to this question) raise formal complaints.



The relatively small number (55) who did complain complained mostly to the Police (45%).



The reasons why so few people of those annoyed by noise did not complain about this were given in response to Q5-“Have you ever formally complained about noise?”.

These reasons are recorded at Chart 19.

Overall results (ctd)

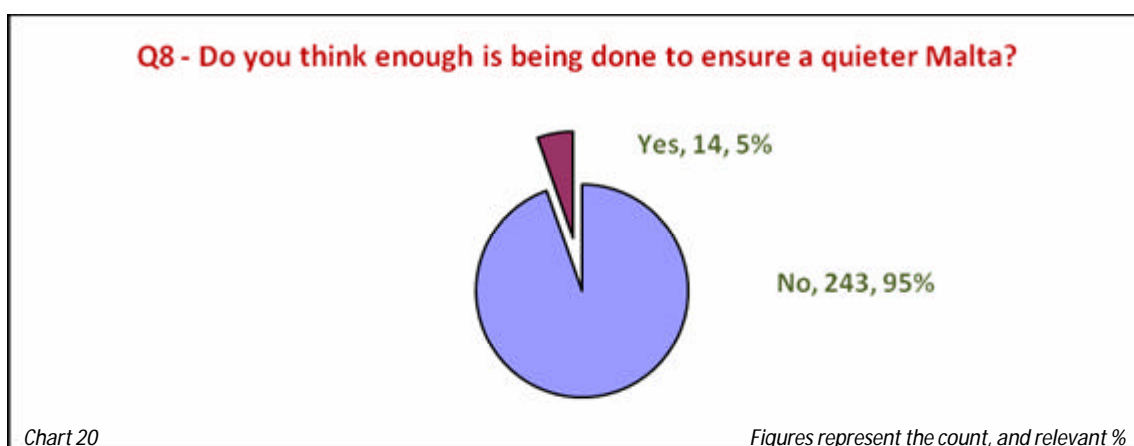
The explanations given by the 208 respondents who contrinuted a reason why they had replied “No” to Q5-“Have you ever formally complained about noise?” indicate that there is a marked perception that “No one cares” (19%) or that there is “No effective enforcement” (31%). These reasons were even volunteered by seven respondents who had replied “Yes” to Q5.

Disaffection at such a high level cannot of course but be a cause for concern.



This concern is aggravated by the very negative results in response to the next question Q8-Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta?

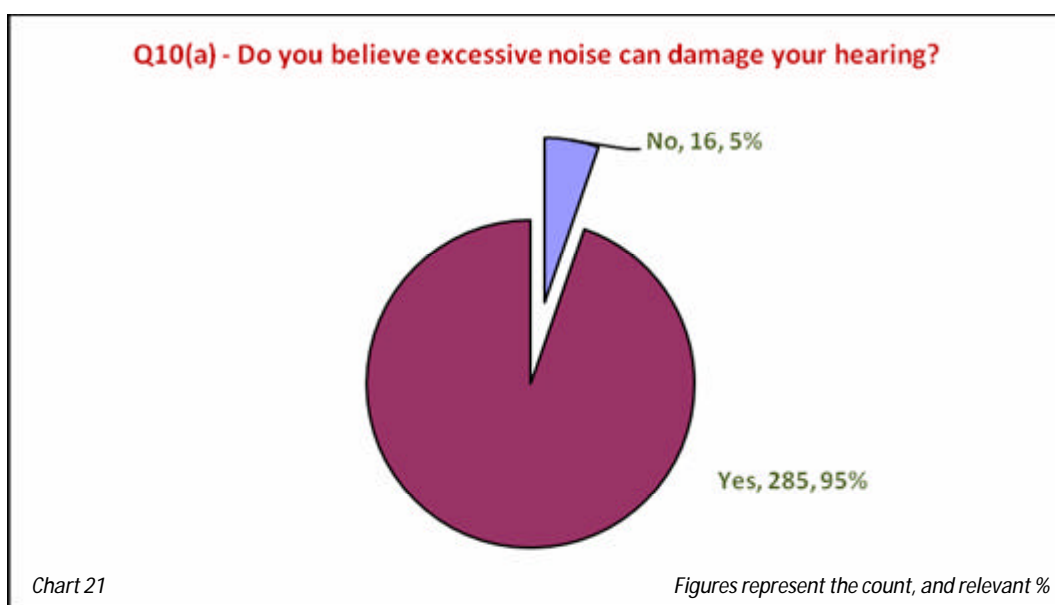
Fully 95% of the 257 respondents to this question replied “No”.



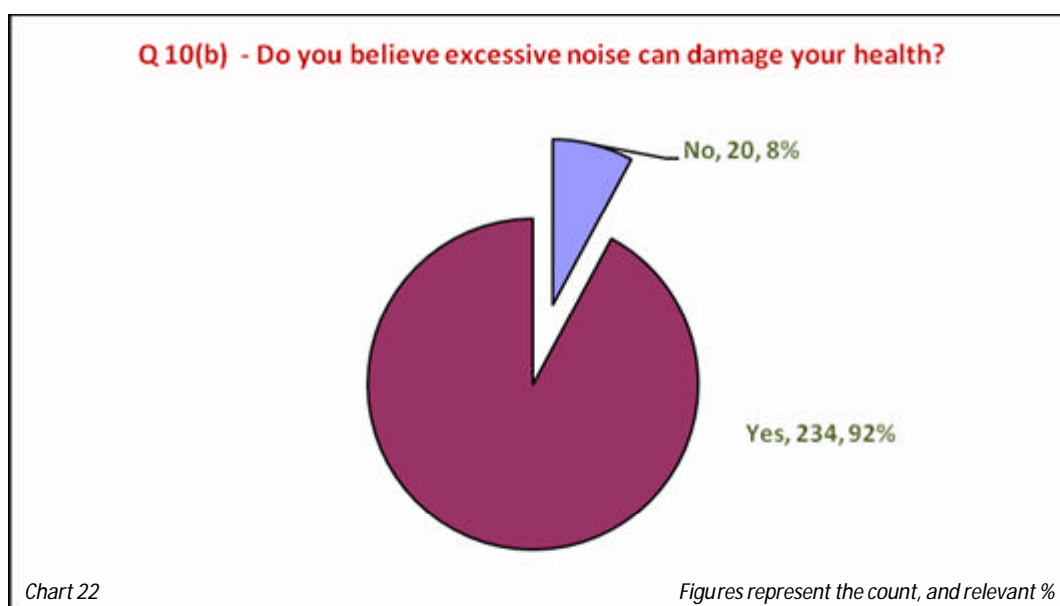
There can hardly be a more emphatic statement than that to press the point that there is much to be remedied so that the vast majority of people can perceive that enough is being done to protect society from the hazards to health and well-being posed by excessive noise.

Overall results (ctd)

Apart from it being abundantly clear that, as just stated, there is much to be remedied so that the vast majority of people can perceive that enough is being done to protect society from the hazards to health and well-being posed by excessive noise, it would also appear that most people would support the view that what needs to be done should be taken in hand quite urgently given the widely held belief that, as the responses to Q 10 show, excessive noise is damaging both to hearing and to health.



Practically all interviewees gave a response to this question and out of the 301 responses fully 285 (95%) believe that excessive noise is damaging to hearing.



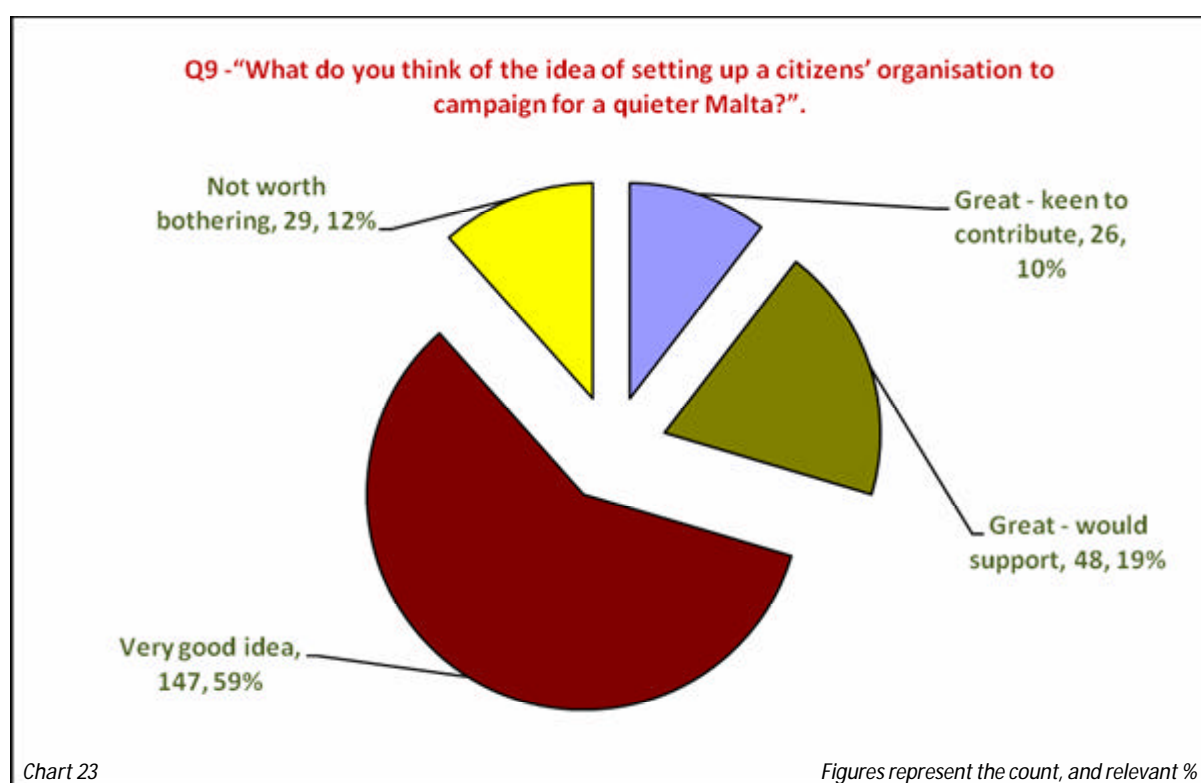
Fewer interviewees gave a response to this question but out of the 254 responses as much as 234 (92%) believe that excessive noise is damaging to health.

Overall results (ctd)

Q9 asked “What do you think of the idea of setting up a citizens’ organisation to campaign for a quieter Malta?”.

Of the 255 respondents who expressed an opinion on this matter, 1 respondent volunteered “Not a good idea” while 4 others expressed a positive outlook but not in the terms offered in the Questionnaire for selection at Q9.

The remaining 250 replies were distributed across the questionnaire options as shown in Chart 21.



The “Not worth bothering” percentage is not inconsiderable at 12% but perhaps it would not have been surprising had it come in at an even greater percentage figure given the high level of disaffection recorded in reply to Q 7 where fully 50% of 208 respondents asserted either that “No one cares” or “No effective enforcement” (Chart 19) to explain why they do not complain about noise nuisance.

While the caveat as already expressed in the Foreword remains, that generalisations to the whole population should be done with caution, the foregoing results would seem to indicate that the setting up of an organisation like NASM would be widely welcomed (with 88% of 250 respondents registering favourable views – Chart 23). This favourable outlook is perhaps not surprising in the light of the overwhelming majorities that:

- are annoyed by noise (92% of 303 respondents - Chart 2)
- believe that excessive noise is damaging to one’s hearing (95% of 301 respondents- Chart 21)
- believe that excessive noise is also damaging to health (92% of 254 respondents- Chart 22)
- feel that not enough is being done to address these problems (95% of 257 respondents– Chart 20)

Nevertheless the high level of disaffection across all ages, as already referred to above when commenting on the responses to Q7 (Chart 19), will no doubt pose challenges for NASM as it seeks to gain credibility as a valid contributor in the field of noise abatement, in the same way that other similar well structured overseas organisations have over time managed to do in their own country.

The questionnaire (English version)

Appendix 1

Does noise annoy you

Yes ☐
No ☐

1 What noise bothers you most? <i>Record answer</i>					
2 Any other noise bothers you? <i>Record answer</i>					
3 How would you describe your view of these noise types? – <i>tick in box</i>					
	<u>Unbearable</u>	<u>Very Annoying</u> (disturbing)	<u>Annoying</u> (intrusive)	<u>Noticeable</u> (but bearable)	<u>No opinion</u>
Petards					
Traffic noise					
<u>Neighbour's</u>					
<i>Amplified music</i>					
<i>Dogs barking</i>					
<i>Air conditioners</i>					
<i>insert</i>					
Construction noise					
<i>insert</i>					
<i>insert</i>					

4 How often are you annoyed by noise? *Tick in box*

<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Seasonally</u>	<u>Weekends</u>	Once weekly	More than once weekly	<u>Daily</u>

Typically at what time?

<u>Night</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Both</u>

5 Have you ever formally complained about noise? Yes ☐ No ☐

6 If Yes to whom did you complain? *Record answer* →

7 If No do you have a special reason or is it because you feel / think that: *Record special reason or tick in box*

<i>Record special reason (if given)</i>	Not all that bothered	Do not know who to	No one cares	No effective enforcement

8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta? Yes ☐ No ☐

9 What do you think of the idea of setting up a citizens' organisation to campaign for a quieter Malta? *tick in box*

<u>Great – keen to contribute</u> <i>Eg join the committee – working groups</i>	<u>Great – would support</u> <i>Eg support activities / campaigns</i>	<u>Very good idea</u> <i>Eg become a member</i>	<u>Not worth bothering</u> <i>Ask for and record reason (see 2)</i>

10 Do you believe that excessive noise can damage your (a) Hearing? Yes ☐ No ☐ (b) Health (*frustration/ stress*) Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you mind confirming this in respect of the following noises?

<i>If changes opinion tick 'No' and switch to left side</i>	<u>Confirm does not annoy</u>
Petards	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic noise	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Neighbour's</u>	
<i>Amplified music</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Dogs barking</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Air conditioners</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>insert</i>	
Construction noise	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>

Do you believe that excessive noise can damage your hearing?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Age last birthday _____

Gender M ☐ F ☐

Locality _____

THANKS

This section describes the basic data that has been collected and the results for each question.

Table 1

Does noise annoy you?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	No	63	20.8	20.8	20.8
	Yes	240	79.2	79.2	100.0
	Total	303	100.0	100.0	

39 of the 63 who had originally answered 'no' to this opening question subsequently recorded annoyance levels in regard to the prompted noise types as shown at Appendix 6.

Table 2

Q1 What noise bothers you most					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Petards	26	8.6	11.0	11.0
	Traffic noise	68	22.4	28.7	39.7
	Amplified music	35	11.6	14.8	54.4
	Construction noise	44	14.5	18.6	73.0
	Loud voices/ Screaming	32	10.6	13.5	86.5
	Others	32	10.6	13.5	100.0
	Total	237	78.2	100.0	
No answer		66	21.8		
Total		303	100.0		

Table 3

Q2 Any other noise bothers you?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Petards	13	4.3	7.7	7.7
	Traffic noise	34	11.2	20.1	27.8
	Amplified music	22	7.3	13.0	40.8
	Dogs barking	14	4.6	8.3	49.1
	Construction noise	30	9.9	17.8	66.9
	Loud voices/ Screaming	33	10.9	19.5	86.4
	Others	23	7.6	13.6	100.0
	Total	169	55.8	100.0	
No answer		134	44.2		
Total		303	100.0		

The main unprompted noise irritants are clearly, in that order: (1) Traffic noise (2) Loud voices/ screaming (3) Construction noise (4) Amplified music (5) Dogs barking (6) Petards

Descriptive statistics (ctd)

Appendix 2 (ctd)

The 'others' figure in Table 2 was made up of: Cars racing/speeding (8) Dogs barking (4) Air-conditioners & Alarms (3 each) with the rest being spread over Aero-planes - Street markets - Road trenching - Flights - School minivans - Mechanics - Bells - Humming background - Quarry blasting - Water dripping - Farm animals.

The 'others' figure in Table 3 was made up of: Bells (4) Cars racing/speeding & Hunters (3 each) with the rest being spread over Alarms - Humming background - Road trenching - Air-conditioners - Buscades - Mechanics - Hawkers - Quarry blasting - Street markets - Tourist coaches.

Table 4

Q3 How would you describe your view of these noise types (on a scale from 1 to 4)

Note these have been re-coded so that: Noticeable = 1; Annoying = 2; Very annoying = 3; and Unbearable = 4.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Petards	244	1	4	2.53	1.086
Traffic noise	252	1	4	2.70	1.024
Amplified music	237	1	4	2.25	1.067
Dogs barking	219	1	4	2.12	1.020
Air Conditioners	180	1	4	1.89	.900
Construction noise	262	1	4	2.93	.982
Loud voices / screaming	63	2	4	3.13	.458

In terms of irritation (1) Loud voices / screaming (2) Construction noise (3) Traffic noise and (4) Petards recorded the highest levels, in that order. The seventeen other noise types itemised above when commenting on the "others" figures in Tables 2 & 3 were spread over forty eight respondents and have been excluded because of the small number attaching to each type, albeit that the individual level of irritation with these noise types was high.

Of these seventeen other noise types Cars racing/speeding was mentioned by 11 respondents, while Alarms & Bells were both mentioned by 5, with all the other noise types coming in at lower figures.

Table 5

Q4 How often are you annoyed by noise?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Rarely	32	10.6	12.5	12.5
	Seasonally	23	7.6	9.0	21.5
	Weekends	18	5.9	7.0	28.5
	Once weekly	24	7.9	9.4	37.9
	More than once weekly	65	21.5	25.4	63.3
	Daily	94	31.0	36.7	100.0
	Total	256	84.5	100.0	
	No answer	47	15.5		
Total		303	100.0		

The frequency level of noise irritation is high 21.5% (more than once weekly) +31% (daily).

Table 6

Q4a Typically at what time?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Night	55	18.2	22.4	22.4
	Day	114	37.6	46.5	69.0
	Both	76	25.1	31.0	100.0
	Total	245	80.9	100.0	
	No Answer	58	19.1		
Total		303	100.0		

Daytime irritation is high.

Table 7

Q5 Have you ever complained?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	No	204	67.3	78.8	78.8
	Yes	55	18.2	21.2	100.0
	Total	259	85.5	100.0	
No answer		44	14.5		
Total		303	100.0		

Complaining is relatively low.

Table 8

Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Source 'Owner'	19	6.3	34.5	34.5
	Police	25	8.3	45.5	80.0
	Local Council	11	3.6	20.0	100.0
	Total	55	18.2	100.0	
	No answer	248	81.8		
Total		303	100.0		

...and mostly to the police.

Table 9

Q7 If No, do you have a special reason or is it because:					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Not at all bothered	40	13.2	19.2	19.2
	Do not know who to	26	8.6	12.5	31.7
	No one cares	40	13.2	19.2	51.0
	No effective enforcement	65	21.5	31.3	82.2
	Others	37	12.2	17.8	100.0
	Total	208	68.6	100.0	
	No Answer	95	31.4		
Total		303	100.0		

....primarily because lack of enforcement

There are seven respondents who answered 'yes' to Q6 but still answered Q7, volunteering two 'no one cares' and five 'no effective enforcement' opinions as shown in Table 10.

Table 10

Respondents who said Res to Q6 but still replied to Q7				
		Source 'Owner'	Police	Local Council
		Count	Count	Count
Q7 If No, do you have a special reason or is it because:	Not at all bothered	0	0	0
	Do not know who to	0	0	0
	No one cares	1	1	0
	No effective enforcement	2	1	2
	Others	0	0	0

A cross tabulation of what type of noise it is that most bothers those people who have formally complained shows that 50% of those bothered by "Dogs barking" have complained with 34.3% for "Amplified Music" and 28.1% for "Loud voices / screaming" but the underlying numbers are too small (100% on a count of just 3 for "Airconditioners"!!) to permit of any reasonable conclusions being drawn and this data has accordingly not been individually included in the "Overall results".

Table 11

Q1 What noise bothers you most? * Q5 Have you ever complained? Crosstabulation

		Q5 Have you ever complained?			Total
			No	Yes	
Q1 What noise bothers you most?	Petards	Count	22	3	25
		% within Q1 What noise bothers you most?	88.0%	12.0%	100.0%
		% within Q5 Have you ever complained?	11.9%	5.9%	10.6%
	Traffic Noise	Count	58	10	68
		% within Q1 What noise bothers you most?	85.3%	14.7%	100.0%
		% within Q5 Have you ever complained?	31.4%	19.6%	28.8%
Amplified Music		Count	23	12	35
		% within Q1 What noise bothers you most?	65.7%	34.3%	100.0%
		% within Q5 Have you ever complained?	12.4%	23.5%	14.8%
	Dogs Barking	Count	2	2	4
		% within Q1 What noise bothers you most?	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
		% within Q5 Have you ever complained?	1.1%	3.9%	1.7%
Air Conditioners		Count	0	3	3
		% within Q1 What noise bothers you most?	0.0%	100.0%	100.00%
		% within Q5 Have you ever complained?	0.0%	5.9%	1.3%
	Construction Noise	Count	36	8	44
		% within Q1 What noise bothers you most?	81.8%	18.2%	100.0%
		% within Q5 Have you ever complained?	19.5%	15.7%	18.6%
Loud voices/ Screaming		Count	23	9	32
		% within Q1 What noise bothers you most?	71.9%	28.10%	100.0%
		% within Q5 Have you ever complained?	12.4%	17.6%	13.6%

A cross tabulation of what type of noise it is that next most bothers those people who have formally complained also resulted in the underlying numbers being too too small to permit of any reasonable conclusions being drawn and this data too has accordingly not been individually included in the "Overall results".

Table 12

Q2R Any other noise bother you? * Q5 Have you ever complained? Crosstabulation

			Q5 Have you ever complained?		Total
			No	Yes	
Q2R Any other noise bother you?	Petards	Count	10	3	13
		% within Q2R Any other noise bother you?	76.9%	23.1%	100.0%
	Traffic noise	Count	28	6	34
		% within Q2R Any other noise bother you?	82.4%	17.6%	100.0%
	Amplified music	Count	12	9	21
		% within Q2R Any other noise bother you?	57.1%	42.9%	100.0%
	Dogs barking	Count	9	5	14
		% within Q2R Any other noise bother you?	64.3%	35.7%	100.0%
	Construction noise	Count	26	4	30
		% within Q2R Any other noise bother you?	86.7%	13.3%	100.0%
	Loud voices/ Screaming	Count	29	4	33
		% within Q2R Any other noise bother you?	87.9%	12.1%	100.0%
Total		Count	131	37	168
		% within Q2R Any other noise bother you?	78.0%	22.0%	100.0%

Table 13

Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	No	243	80.2	94.6	94.6
	Yes	14	4.6	5.4	100.0
	Total	257	84.8	100.0	
No answer		46	15.2		
Total		303	100.0		

Obviously not!

Table 14

Q9 What do you think about setting up NASM					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Contribute	26	8.6	10.2	10.2
	Support	48	15.8	18.8	29.0
	Good	147	48.5	57.6	86.7
	Not worth it	29	9.6	11.4	98.0
	Other but positive	4	1.3	1.6	99.6
	Not a good idea	1	.3	.4	100.0
	Total	255	84.2	100.0	
No answer		48	15.8		
Total		303	100.0		

There is reasonable support for an organization like NASM

Table 15

Q10a Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	No	16	5.3	5.3	5.3
	Yes	285	94.1	94.7	100.0
	Total	301	99.3	100.0	
No answer		2	.7		
Total		303	100.0		
Q10b Do you believe excessive noise can damage your health					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	No	20	6.6	7.9	7.9
	Yes	234	77.2	92.1	100.0
	Total	254	83.8	100.0	
No answer		49	16.2		
Total		303	100.0		

There is widespread belief that noise is damaging

Table 16

Gender					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Female	171	56.4	56.8	56.8
	Male	130	42.9	43.2	100.0
	Total	301	99.3	100.0	
	No answer	2	.7		
Total		303	100.0		

Sample has an over representation of females probably due to where the sample was collected
Cross tabulations of Gender with all the questions in the Questionnaire appear in Appendix 3.

Table 17

Age					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age last birthday	301	12	79	38.76	16.380

The average age of respondents was 38.76 with a sd of 16.38

Cross tabulations of Age with all the questions in the Questionnaire appear in Appendix 4.

Table 18

Respondents locality by electoral district					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	1	24	7.9	8.0	8.0
	2	14	4.6	4.7	12.6
	3	21	6.9	7.0	19.6
	4	17	5.6	5.6	25.2
	5	27	8.9	9.0	34.2
	6	40	13.2	13.3	47.5
	7	21	6.9	7.0	54.5
	8	32	10.6	10.6	65.1
	9	36	11.9	12.0	77.1
	10	27	8.9	9.0	86.0
	11	27	8.9	9.0	95.0
	12	13	4.3	4.3	99.3
	13	2	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	301	99.3	100.0	
	No answer	2	.7		
Total		303	100.0		

There is a good spread from across Malta but those from Gozo (district 13) are under represented which is not surprising as the interview locations were exclusively in Malta.

Grouping the residential localities of the respondents by electoral district produced numbers that do not permit of meaningful statistical analysis and were accordingly allocated to two district groupings, District S comprising electoral districts 1 to 6 and District N comprising electoral districts 7 to 12.

Cross tabulations of the Residential District Groupings with all the questions in the Questionnaire appear in Appendix 5.

Table 19

Interview location					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	Qormi	100	33.0	33.0	33.0
	Sliema	102	33.7	33.7	66.7
	Valletta	101	33.3	33.3	100.0
	Total	303	100.0	100.0	

Cross tabulations of Interview location with all the questions in the Questionnaire appear in Appendix 7.

Table 20

Does noise annoy you? * Gender				
Gender				Total
		Female	Male	
Does noise annoy you?	No	28	35	63
	Yes	143	95	238
Total		171	130	301

Women are more annoyed than men chi square test significant 4.96 $p < .05$.

Table 21

Q1R What noise bothers you * Gender				
Gender				Total
		Female	Male	
Q1R What noise bothers you	Petards	14	12	26
	Traffic noise	36	31	67
	Amplified music	20	15	35
	Construction noise	29	14	43
	Loud voices/ Screaming	20	12	32
	others	20	12	32
Total		139	96	235

There is no statistical difference as to whether the bother with these varies between men and women. The same applies for any other noise that bothers you. Males and females show no difference

Table 22

Q2R Any other noise bother you? * Gender				
Gender				Total
		Female	Male	
Q2R Any other noise bother you?	Petards	9	4	13
	Traffic noise	17	17	34
	Amplified music	14	8	22
	Dogs barking	9	5	14
	Construction noise	20	10	30
	Loud voices/ Screaming	17	16	33
	others	15	8	23
Total		101	68	169

Chi square tests show no difference

Table 23

Q3 How would you describe your view of these noise types (on a scale from 1 to 4) vs Gender

Note these have been recoded so that: Noticeable = 1; Annoying = 2; Very annoying = 3; and Unbearable = 4.

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Q3a Petards	Female	142	2.51	1.077
	Male	100	2.58	1.103
Q3b Traffic noise	Female	146	2.6	1.034
	Male	104	2.83	0.999
Q3c Amplified music	Female	141	2.29	1.066
	Male	95	2.2	1.078
Q3d Dogs barking	Female	122	2.16	1.055
	Male	96	2.07	0.976
Q3e Airconditioners	Female	111	1.91	0.9
	Male	68	1.87	0.913
Q3f Construction noise	Female	151	3.03	0.931
	Male	109	2.8	1.025
Q3g Loud voices / screaming	Female	36	3.08	0.5
	Male	27	3.19	0.396

T tests show that the means for the answers for males and females are not different

Table 24

Q4 How often are you annoyed by noise? * Gender

		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Q4 How often are you annoyed by noise?	Rarely	19	13	32
	Seasonally	13	10	23
	Weekends	7	11	18
	Once weekly	17	6	23
	More than once weekly	37	28	65
	Daily	55	38	93
Total		148	106	254

Similarly males and females exhibit no difference as to how often they are annoyed by noise. Statistically chi square tests show that there is no difference.

Table 25

Q4a Typically at what time? * Gender				
		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Q4a Typically at what time?	Night	29	26	55
	Day	65	48	113
	Both	49	26	75
Total		143	100	243

Again, statistically the time of day does not vary by males and females.

Table 26

Q5 Have you ever complained? * Gender				
		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Q5 Have you ever complained?	No	114	89	203
	Yes	35	19	54
Total		149	108	257

There is also no statistical difference in complaining behaviour between males and females.

Table 27

Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to? * Gender				
		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to?	Source 'Owner'	14	5	19
	Police	12	12	24
	Local Council	9	2	11
Total		35	19	54

There seems to be no difference as to who they complain to but it is not possible to be too categorical here as the number of counts in one of the cells (at 2) is low and the chi square test may not be sufficiently robust

Table 28

Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because: * Gender Crosstabulation				
		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because:	Not at all bothered	18	21	39
	Do not know who to	15	11	26
	No one cares	26	14	40
	No effective enforcement	32	33	65
	Others	25	12	37
Total		116	91	207

There is no statistical difference on this by gender.

Table 29

Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta? * Gender				
		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta?	No	139	102	241
	Yes	10	4	14
Total		149	106	255

There appears to be no difference but cannot be sure as count of one cell is below 6 which is below what is needed for the chi square test.

Table 30

Q9R What do you think about setting up NASM * Gender				
		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Q9R	Contribute	16	10	26
	Support	35	13	48
	Good	84	62	146
	Not worth it	12	16	28
Total		147	101	248

No statistical difference between males and females.

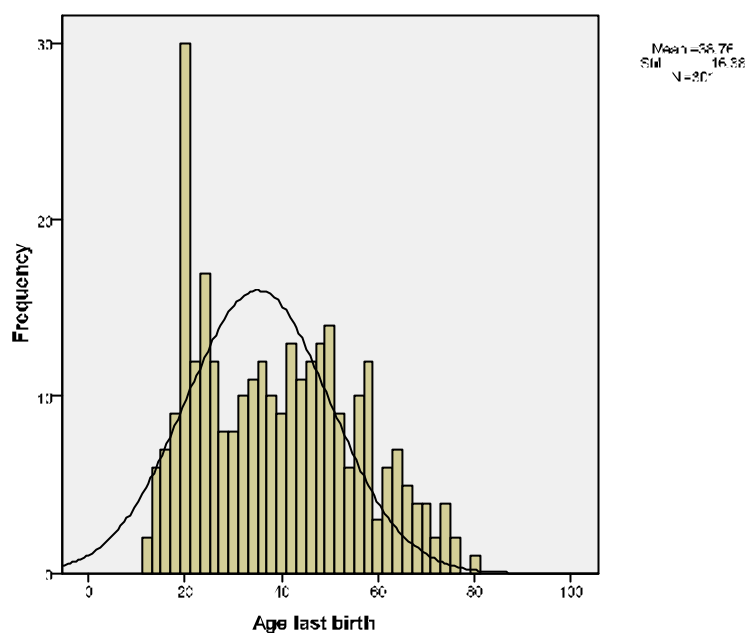
Similarly there appears to be no difference on the health aspect although it is not possible to be sure as the count in one cell is small

Commentary

The conclusion from all the cross tabulations of the different questions with gender show that males and females respond in the same way for all Questions. The only exception is with respect to question 1 where females exhibit a higher level of bother from noise. It means that for all the other questions the overall scores are the ones that should be looked at. It also provides comfort that despite a higher number of females in the sample this has no effect on the results.

As already indicated at Table 17 in Appendix 2 the average age of respondents was 38.76 with a sd of 16.38

Table 31



There is some over representation of those in the 19-20 year old category which probably translates into an under representation of the overall level of the negative perceptions regarding noise as the cross tabulations by age in this Appendix indicate that <38 are somewhat less bothered by certain types of noise than the >38 group.

Table 32

Q1R What noise bothers you * Age groups

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q1R What noise bothers you	Petards	9	17	26
	Traffic noise	38	30	68
	Amplified music	11	24	35
	Construction noise	23	21	44
	Loud voices/ Screaming	16	16	32
	others	10	22	32
Total		107	130	237

Table 33

Q2R Any other noise bother you? * Age groups				
Age groups				Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q2R Any other noise bother you?	Petards	4	9	13
	Traffic noise	18	16	34
	Amplified music	5	17	22
	Dogs barking	8	6	14
	Construction noise	18	12	30
	Loud voices/ Screaming	19	14	33
	Others	6	17	23
Total		78	91	169

A chi square test indicates that there are differences by age on what bothers people. Older people are more bothered by petards and amplified music.

Table 34

Q3 How would you describe your view of these noise types (on a scale from 1 to 4) vs Gender				
NB: these have been recoded so that: Noticeable =1; Annoying = 2; Very annoying = 3; and Unbearable = 4.				
	Age groups	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Q3a Petards	< 38	117	2.4	1.034
	> 38	127	2.65	1.124
Q3b Traffic noise	< 38	120	2.73	0.95
	> 38	132	2.67	1.089
Q3c Amplified music	< 38	112	2.04	1.034
	> 38	125	2.44	1.066
Q3d Dogs barking	< 38	105	2.05	1.041
	> 38	114	2.18	1.001
Q3e Air Conditioners	< 38	84	1.8	0.875
	> 38	96	1.98	0.917
Q3f Construction noise	< 38	130	3.02	0.91
	> 38	132	2.83	1.042
Q3g Loud voices / screaming	< 38	31	3.06	0.359
	> 38	32	3.19	0.535

t-tests indicate that there are statistically significant difference by age for Amplified music where those >38 are more bothered by this than those <38. The petards difference is also close to being significant.

Table 35

Q4a Typically at what time? * Age groups

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q4a Typically at what time?	Night	21	34	55
	Day	53	61	114
	Both	33	43	76
Total		107	138	245

Chi square test indicates that time has no effect by age.

Table 36

Q5 Have you ever complained? * Age groups

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q5 Have you ever complained?	No	102	102	204
	Yes	18	37	55
Total		120	139	259

There is some evidence of differences in complaining by age but cannot be sure as a minimum cell of 25 is required for effective testing with chi square.

Table 37

Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to? * Age groups

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to?	Source 'Owner'	9	10	19
	Police	7	18	25
	Local Council	2	9	11
Total		18	37	55

There appears to be no difference as to whom respondents complain to by age. But cannot be sure as a minimum cell of 5 is required for effective testing with chi square.

Table 38

Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because: * Age groups

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because:	Not at all bothered	23	17	40
	Do not know who to	14	12	26
	No one cares	19	21	40
	No effective enforcement	33	32	65
	Others	14	23	37
Total		103	105	208

No difference by age.

Table 39

Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta? * Age groups

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta?	No	111	132	243
	Yes	7	7	14
Total		118	139	257

No difference by age.

Table 40

Q9R What do you think about setting up NASM * Age groups

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q9R What do you think about setting up NASM	Contribute	11	15	26
	Support	23	25	48
	Good	69	78	147
	Not worth it	10	19	29
Total		113	137	250

No difference by age.

Table 41**Q10a Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing * Age groups**

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q10a Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing	No	14	2	16
	Yes	135	150	285
Total		149	152	301

Looks like there may be a difference but cannot be sure because the minimum cell required for effective testing using chi square is 8.

Table 42**Q10b Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing * Age groups**

		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Q10b Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing	No	15	5	20
	Yes	100	134	234
Total		115	139	254

Looks like there may be a difference but cannot be sure because the minimum cell required for effective testing using chi square is 9.

Commentary
Table 43**Crosstab**

Count				
		Age groups		Total
		< 38	> 38	
Does noise annoy you?	No	47	16	63
	Yes	103	137	240
Total		150	153	303

Statistically significant.

District S comprises electoral districts 1 to 6 and District N is made up of electoral districts 7 to 12.

Table 44

Does noise annoy you? * Locality N-S Crosstabulation

Count	Locality N-S			Total
		S	N	
Does noise annoy you?	No	25	38	63
	Yes	118	120	238
Total		143	158	301

No statistical difference (chi square used unless otherwise indicated).

Table 45

Q1R What noise bothers you * Locality N-S

		Locality N-S		Total
		S	N	
Q1R What noise bothers you	Petards	10	16	26
	Traffic noise	39	29	68
	Amplified music	11	24	35
	Construction noise	18	24	42
	Loud voices/ Screaming	19	13	32
	others	19	13	32
Total		116	119	235

No statistical difference but almost at $p=.056$

Table 46

Q2R Any other noise bothers you? * Locality N-S

		Locality N-S		Total
		S	N	
Q2R Any other noise bothers you?	Petards	8	5	13
	Traffic noise	13	21	34
	Amplified music	14	7	21
	Dogs barking	7	7	14
	Construction noise	11	19	30
	Loud voices/ Screaming	18	15	33
	others	12	11	23
Total		83	85	168

No statistical difference.

Table 47

**Q3 How would you describe your view of these noise types (on a scale from 1 to 4)
vs Gender**

NB: these have been recoded so that: Noticeable =1; Annoying = 2; Very annoying = 3; and Unbearable = 4.					
	Locality N-S	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Q3a Petards	S	118	2.47	1.084	0.1
	N	124	2.61	1.08	0.097
Q3b Traffic noise	S	121	2.74	1.023	0.093
	N	130	2.66	1.031	0.09
Q3c Amplified music	S	113	2.23	1.061	0.1
	N	122	2.27	1.084	0.098
Q3d Dogs barking	S	100	2.18	1.009	0.101
	N	118	2.08	1.031	0.095
Q3e Air Conditioners	S	83	2.01	0.848	0.093
	N	95	1.8	0.941	0.097
Q3f Construction noise	S	123	2.76	1.043	0.094
	N	137	3.07	0.901	0.077
Q3g Loud voices / screaming	S	36	3.11	0.465	0.077
	N	27	3.15	0.456	0.088

T-test show a statistically significant difference only for Construction noise ($t=-2.548$; $p=.011$). Construction noise irritates people in the N more than in the S perhaps because more construction takes place in the N.

Table 48

Q4a Typically at what time? * Locality N-S

		Locality N-S		Total
		S	N	
Q4a Typically at what time?	Night	29	26	55
	Day	51	62	113
	Both	35	40	75
Total		115	128	243

No statistical difference .

Table 49

Q5 Have you ever complained? * Locality N-S

		Locality N-S		Total
		S	N	
Q5 Have you ever complained?	No	102	102	204
	Yes	22	31	53
Total		124	133	257

No difference but cannot be sure as one of the cells is less than 26.

Cross tabulations – Residential District Groupings (ctd)

Appendix 5 (ctd)

Table 50

Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to? * Locality N-S

Locality N-S				Total
		S	N	
Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to?	Source 'Owner'	9	10	19
	Police	10	14	24
	Local Council	3	7	10
Total		22	31	53

Looks like no difference but cannot be sure as one of the cells is less than 5.

Table 51

Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because: * Locality N-S

Locality N-S				Total
		S	N	
Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because:	Not at all bothered	23	17	40
	Do not know who to	15	11	26
	No one cares	14	26	40
	No effective enforcement	29	35	64
	Others	23	14	37
Total		104	103	207

Statistically there is no difference.

Table 52

Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta? * Locality N-S

Locality N-S				Total
		S	N	
Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta?	No	117	124	241
	Yes	7	7	14
Total		124	131	255

Statistically there is no difference.

Table 53

Q9R What do you think about setting up NASM * Locality N-S

Locality N-S				Total
		S	N	
Q9R What do you think about setting up NASM	Contribute	13	13	26
	Support	24	24	48
	Good	70	76	146
	Not worth it	14	14	28
Total		121	127	248

Statistically there is no difference.

Table 54

Q10a Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing * Locality N-S

Locality N-S				Total
		S	N	
Q10a Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing	No	8	8	16
	Yes	134	149	283
Total		142	157	299

Statistically there is no difference.

Table 55

Q10b Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing * Locality N-S

Locality N-S				Total
		S	N	
Q10b Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing	No	10	10	20
	Yes	113	120	233
Total		123	130	253

Statistically there is no difference.

Commentary

Overall the cross tabs show a very homogenous perception of noise across Malta

Cross tabulations – Annoyance levels by initial (yes/no) response

Appendix 6

This section records how respondents who had originally replied “No” to the opening question “Does noise annoy you” the proceeded to record annoyance levels related to certain noise types as suggested to respondents in the Questionnaire.

Table 56

Does noise annoy you? * Q3a Petards Crosstabulation

			Noticeable	Annoying	Very Annoying	Unbearable	
Does noise annoy you?	No	Count	5	5	15	2	27
		% within Does noise annoy you?	18.5%	18.5%	55.6%	7.4%	100.0%
		% within Q3a Petards	8.8%	8.8%	20.3%	3.6%	11.1%
	Yes	Count	52	52	59	54	217
		% within Does noise annoy you?	24.0%	24.0%	27.2%	24.9%	100.0%
		% within Q3a Petards	91.2%	91.2%	79.7%	96.4%	88.9%
Total	Count	57	57	74	56	244	
	% within Does noise annoy you?	23.4%	23.4%	30.3%	23.0%	100.0%	
	% within Q3a Petards	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 57

Does noise annoy you? * Q3b Traffic noise Crosstabulation

Q3b Traffic noise							Total
			Noticeable	Annoying	Very Annoying	Unbearable	
Does noise annoy you?	No	Count	3	7	11	2	23
		% within Does noise annoy you?	13.0%	30.4%	47.8%	8.7%	100.0%
		% within Q3b Traffic noise	7.3%	12.1%	12.4%	3.1%	9.1%
	Yes	Count	38	51	78	62	229
		% within Does noise annoy you?	16.6%	22.3%	34.1%	27.1%	100.0%
		% within Q3b Traffic noise	92.7%	87.9%	87.6%	96.9%	90.9%
Total	Count	41	58	89	64	252	
	% within Does noise annoy you?	16.3%	23.0%	35.3%	25.4%	100.0%	
	% within Q3b Traffic noise	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 58

Does noise annoy you? * Q3c Amplified music Crosstabulation

			Noticeable	Annoying	Very Annoying	Unbearable	
Does noise annoy you?	No	Count	15	3	0	1	19
		% within Does noise annoy you?	78.9%	15.8%	0.0%	5.3%	100.0%
		% within Q3c Amplified music	20.0%	4.7%	0.0%	2.7%	8.0%
	Yes	Count	60	61	61	36	218
		% within Does noise annoy you?	27.5%	28.0%	28.0%	16.5%	100.0%
		% within Q3c Amplified music	80.0%	95.3%	100.0%	97.3%	92.0%
Total		Count	75	64	61	37	237
		% with in Does noise annoy you?	31.6%	27.0%	25.7%	15.6%	100.0%
		% within Q3c Amplified music	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 59

Does noise annoy you? * Q3d Dogs barking Crosstabulation

Q3d Dogs barking							Total
			Noticeable	Annoying	Very Annoying	Unbearable	
Does noise annoy you?	No	Count	12	6	3	1	22
		% within Does noise annoy you?	54.5%	27.3%	13.6%	4.5%	100.0%
		% within Q3d Dogs barking	16.2%	8.2%	6.8%	3.6%	10.0%
	Yes	Count	62	67	41	27	197
		% within Does noise annoy you?	31.5%	34.0%	20.8%	13.7%	100.0%
		% within Q3d Dogs barking	83.8%	91.8%	93.2%	96.4%	90.0%
Total	Count	74	73	44	28	219	
	% within Does noise annoy you?	33.8%	33.3%	20.1%	12.8%	100.0%	
	% within Q3d Dogs barking	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 60

Does noise annoy you? * Q3e Air Conditioners Crosstabulation

Q3e Air Conditioners							Total
			Noticeable	Annoying	Very Annoying	Unbearable	
Does noise annoy you?	No	Count	11	5	0	1	17
		% within Does noise annoy you?	64.7%	29.4%	0.0%	5.9%	100.0%
		% within Q3e Air Conditioners	15.5%	7.2%	0.0%	8.3%	9.4%
	Yes	Count	60	64	28	11	163
		% within Does noise annoy you?	36.8%	39.3%	17.2%	6.7%	100.0%
		% within Q3e Air Conditioners	84.5%	92.8%	100.0%	91.7%	90.6%
Total	Count	71	69	28	12	180	
	% within Does noise annoy you?	39.4%	38.3%	15.6%	6.7%	100.0%	
	% within Q3e Air Conditioners	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 61

Does noise annoy you? * Q3f Construction noise Crosstabulation

Q3f Construction noise							Total
			Noticeable	Annoying	Very Annoying	Unbearable	
Does noise annoy you?	No	Count	5	12	13	5	35
		% within Does noise annoy you?	14.3%	34.3%	37.1%	14.3%	100.0%
		% within Q3f Construction noise	17.9%	23.1%	14.0%	5.6%	13.4%
	Yes	Count	23	40	80	84	227
		% within Does noise annoy you?	10.1%	17.6%	35.2%	37.0%	100.0%
		% within Q3f Construction noise	82.1%	76.9%	86.0%	94.4%	86.6%
Total	Count	28	52	93	89	262	
	% within Does noise annoy you?	10.7%	19.8%	35.5%	34.0%	100.0%	
	% within Q3f Construction noise	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 62

Does noise annoy you? * Q3g Loud voices / screaming

				Annoying	Very Annoying	Unbearable	
Does noise annoy you?	No	Count		0	1	0	1
		% within Does noise annoy you?		0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Q3g Loud voices / screaming		0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.6%
	Yes	Count		3	48	11	62
		% within Does noise annoy you?		4.8%	77.4%	17.7%	100.0%
		% within Q3g Loud voices / screaming		100.0%	98.0%	100.0%	98.4%
Total	Count			3	49	11	63
	% within Does noise annoy you?			4.8%	77.8%	17.5%	100.0%
	% within Q3g Loud voices / screaming			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 63

Q1R What noise bothers you * Interview location					
Interview location					Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q1R What noise bothers you	Petards	10	5	11	26
	Traffic noise	27	19	22	68
	Amplified music	10	12	13	35
	Construction noise	17	15	12	44
	Loud voices/ Screaming	15	6	11	32
	others	13	6	13	32
Total		92	63	82	237

There is no statistical differences in the results.

Table 64

Q2R Any other noise bother you? * Interview location					
Interview location					Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q2R Any other noise bother you?	Petards	8	1	4	13
	Traffic noise	12	10	12	34
	Amplified music	14	4	4	22
	Dogs barking	7	3	4	14
	Construction noise	10	14	6	30
	Loud voices/ Screaming	9	15	9	33
	others	8	2	13	23
Total		68	49	52	169

There are differences between Qormi and the rest on petards and amplified noise because as can be seen from the table below Qormi respondents tend to be older

Table 65

		Age groups	
		< 38	> 38
		Count	Count
Interview location	Qormi	54	46
	Sliema	62	40
	Valletta	34	67

Differences are significant.

Table 66

Q3 How would you describe your view of these noise types (on a scale from 1 to 4) by Interview location

Note these have been recoded so that: Noticeable =1; Annoying = 2; Very annoying = 3; and Unbearable = 4.

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Q3a Petards	Qormi	89	2.21	1.102	10.36	0
	Sliema	84	2.93	0.847		
	Valletta	71	2.45	1.181		
	Total	244	2.53	1.086		
Q3b Traffic noise	Qormi	87	2.59	0.959	4.968	0.008
	Sliema	81	2.99	0.859		
	Valletta	84	2.54	1.177		
	Total	252	2.7	1.024		
Q3c Amplified music	Qormi	86	2.22	1.11	0.928	0.397
	Sliema	76	2.16	0.967		
	Valletta	75	2.39	1.114		
	Total	237	2.25	1.067		
Q3d Dogs barking	Qormi	84	2.14	0.996	2.015	0.136
	Sliema	74	1.95	0.92		
	Valletta	61	2.3	1.145		
	Total	219	2.12	1.02		
Q3e Air Conditioners	Qormi	76	1.86	0.934	3.92	0.022
	Sliema	63	1.73	0.827		
	Valletta	41	2.22	0.881		
	Total	180	1.89	0.9		
Q3f Construction noise	Qormi	89	2.72	1.108	4.615	0.011
	Sliema	86	3.16	0.838		
	Valletta	87	2.91	0.936		
	Total	262	2.93	0.982		
Q3g Loud voices / screaming	Qormi	27	3	0.392	11.244	0
	Sliema	18	2.94	0.236		
	Valletta	18	3.5	0.514		
	Total	63	3.13	0.458		

There are differences for the ones highlighted with Petards, Traffic noise and Air conditioners being seen more negatively in Sliema location respondents and Air conditioners and loud screaming seen more negatively by Valletta location respondents

Table 67

Q4a Typically at what time? * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q4a Typically at what time?	Night	29	5	21	55
	Day	22	46	46	114
	Both	37	16	23	76
Total		88	67	90	245

No statistical difference on time.

Table 68

Q5 Have you ever complained? * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q5 Have you ever complained?	No	71	59	74	204
	Yes	25	12	18	55
Total		96	71	92	259

No difference by interview locality on complaining behaviour.

Table 69

Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to? * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q6 If Yes, who have you complained to?	Source 'Owner'	10	1	8	19
	Police	9	7	9	25
	Local Council	6	4	1	11
Total		25	12	18	55

Cannot say as three cells are less than 5.

Table 70

Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because: * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q7R If No, do you have a special reason or is it because:	Not at all bothered	14	9	17	40
	Do not know who to	5	11	10	26
	No one cares	11	14	15	40
	No effective enforcement	33	17	15	65
	Others	11	7	19	37
Total		74	58	76	208

Difference is statistically significant; the respondents interviewed at Qormi are more sceptical on enforcement.

Table 71

Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta? * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q8 Do you think enough is being done to ensure a quieter Malta?	No	91	68	84	243
	Yes	5	1	8	14
Total		96	69	92	257

No differences here.

Table 72

Q9R What do you think about setting up NASM * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q9R What do you think about setting up NASM	Contribute	10	12	4	26
	Support	20	23	5	48
	Good	53	32	62	147
	Not worth it	10	2	17	29
Total		93	69	88	250

Significant differences. Respondents interviewed at Valletta location less willing to get involved.

Table 73

Q10a Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q10a Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing	No	5	7	4	16
	Yes	95	93	97	285
Total		100	100	101	301

Table 74

Q10b Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing * Interview location

		Interview location			Total
		Qormi	Sliema	Valletta	
Q10b Do you believe excessive noise can damage your hearing	No	10	2	8	20
	Yes	83	67	84	234
Total		93	69	92	254

No differences in the above two tables but cannot be completely sure as some cells in both tables are less than 5.

Commentary

There are some differences among responses obtained from the three localities but they do not appear to be any systematic bias from a poor data collection

The paramount requirements

The research's outcome will be mostly driven by the success with which we manage to achieve reasonable randomness in our sampling, a reasonable sample size, the clarity of the questions asked and the way that they are put across.

Reasonable randomness, spread and sample size

The reasonable randomness is expected to be achieved through the rigorous application of 'every seventh person passing the interviewing point'. The count is to restart even when an individual declines the interview and the 'refusal' is to be recorded on the special sheet provided.

A reasonably wide spread is being targeted by establishing the three interviewing sites and timings as separately recorded in the Questionnaire folder provided. The sample size at each site has been set at 100 as a tentative start-off, and possibly definitive, figure, depending on the results

Administering the questionnaire

One of the reasons that the PAPI method has been chosen is that it is the least burdensome on respondents. Nevertheless it remains that a friendly, motivating interviewer can increase response and item response rates, maintain motivation and be able to clarify any ambiguity which respondents may perceive.

Interviewers will be expected to follow the following guidelines.

Interviewing guidelines

Do not force for an answer.

For example if the interviewee hesitates when being asked Q1 "What noise bothers you most" do not sound or look impatient just prompt "We mean what types of noise" and if it still takes a bit too long just say "never mind, one does get surprised when questions are asked that one was not expecting" AND move on to Q3 (rather than ask Q2 "Any other noise bothers you"!!!).

Facilitate but do not influence an answer

A helpful introduction to Q3, especially in the case of an interviewee who has found difficulty with Q1, would be something on the lines of "Now I am just going to mention some types of noise and would like you to tell me how you feel about them" Mention the listed items (plus any as the interviewee may later suggest) in the order shown on the sheet. Tackle them one by one and, in each case, do not prompt the response off the sheet but when the reply is given agree with the interviewee which of the sheet's description most closely fits the response. Do not prompt them up or down the scale.

Similarly in questions 7 and 9.

Do not get involved in a discussion on noise

The most one can say is something on the lines of "Sometimes one reads or hears things and one does not know whether people really feel that way. This is why we are asking some simple questions, to find out whether it is true that noise bothers a lot of people and if so what bothers most people most".

Be sensitive to interviewee unease

If interviewee appears tired or in an obvious hurry reassure that "only a few simple questions left". Can add something like "really appreciate your help"

Objectivity must not be prejudiced

The research will be of no use to anyone unless it accurately reflects the feelings of the interviewees. The questionnaire accordingly avoids any bias and the interviewer must be careful not to introduce any, whether personal or as the interviewer may perceive to be the purpose of the research.

Do not fumble with papers while interviewee waits

Have the questionnaire at the ready before you approach the interviewee. The folders provided have covers that can be folded back. This should enable the interviewer to switch quite easily as needed from the English to the Maltese version (and back again) by just turning the page in use and bending the folder back across the other edge of the spine.

The Interview timings and spread

Appendix 9

		30/11/2009		01/12/2009		02/12/2009								03/12/2009					04/12/2009								08/12/2009				
		10:00	11:00	10:00	12:00	13:00	11:00	11:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	15:00	16:00	18:00	10:00	10:30	12:00	15:00	16:00	18:15	08:00	10:15	12:00	12:45	13:15	16:00	16:30	17:30	18:00	11:00	12:00
Qormi	J	13		11							18				8																50
	D									20					18						12										50
	M		37			26																			25		14				102
	N						20								17								13								50
Valletta	L											12						19				12			8						51
		13	48		96								62					70								14		303			

Coding the responses

Appendix 10

Data capture was done exclusively using a MSEXcel spreadsheet.

With a view to facilitating the accurate capture of the questionnaire responses it was deemed to be opportune to arrange that the inputs be in a text format that reflects the wording used in the questionnaire.

Accordingly a worksheet (WS1) was dedicated to providing appropriate lists of such texts which lists were then used (for data validation) in a separate worksheet (WS2) then also created for textual inputs of the responses.

WS1 also had codes entered against the lists entries that had been created for data input validation purposes and this then provided a look-up table for coding purposes which was done 'automatically' (by VLOOKUP formula) in a separate worksheet (WS3).

WS3 was used as the source data for the technical work that was then done using SPSS and is carried at Appendices 5 through to 8(?).

											Annoyance levels	
											Annoying	3
											Blank	0
											No opinion	5
											Noticeable	4
											Unbearable	1
											Very annoying	2
Interview location	Sheet number	Does noise annoy you	What noise bothers you most	Any other noise	Petards	Traffic noise	Amplified music	Dogs barking	Aircondition	Construction		
Valletta	1	No	Blank	Blank	Blank	Annoying	Noticeable	Unbearable	Unbearable	Unbearable		
Valletta	2	Yes	Petards	Construction noise	Unbearable	Noticeable	Annoying	No opinion	No opinion	Unbearable		
Valletta	3	Yes	Traffic noise	Dogs barking	Noticeable	Very annoying	Very annoying	Unbearable	Noticeable	Unbearable		
Valletta	4	Yes	Fights	Blank	No opinion	Unbearable	No opinion	No opinion	No opinion	Unbearable		
Valletta	5	Yes	Petards	Traffic noise	Unbearable	Unbearable	Annoying	No opinion	Unbearable	Unbearable		
Valletta	6	Yes	Traffic noise	Blank	No opinion	Unbearable	No opinion	No opinion	No opinion	Annoying		
Valletta	7	Yes	Construction noise	Blank	Noticeable	Noticeable	No opinion	Very annoying	No opinion	Unbearable		
Valletta	8	Yes	Dogs barking	Traffic noise	Very annoying	Very annoying	Unbearable	Unbearable	No opinion	Unbearable		
Valletta	9	Yes	Amplified music-humming	Very annoying	Noticeable	Noticeable	Noticeable	Annoying	Very annoying	Very annoying		
Valletta	10	Yes	Traffic noise	Blank	Unbearable	Unbearable	Noticeable	No opinion	No opinion	No opinion		
Valletta	11	Yes	Construction noise	Blank	No opinion	Very annoying	No opinion	No opinion	Annoying	Unbearable		
Valletta	12	Yes	Traffic noise	Blank	No opinion	Unbearable	No opinion	No opinion	Annoying	Unbearable		
Valletta	13	Yes	Construction noise	Traffic noise	No opinion	Unbearable	Unbearable	No opinion	No opinion	Unbearable		
Valletta	14	Yes	Construction noise	Blank	No opinion	Annoying	No opinion	No opinion	Annoying	Unbearable	1	1
Valletta	15	Yes	Traffic noise	Voices / screams	No opinion	Annoying	Noticeable	Noticeable	No opinion	Unbearable	5	5
Valletta	16	Yes	Petards	Blank	Unbearable	Noticeable	Annoying	Annoying	No opinion	No opinion	1	4
Valletta	17	Yes	Amplified music	Voices / screams	Unbearable	Annoying	Unbearable	Unbearable	No opinion	Unbearable	5	5
Valletta	18	Yes	Amplified music	Petards	Unbearable	Very annoying	Unbearable	Very annoying	Noticeable	Unbearable	5	1
	3	7	2	6	0	4	4	5	2	5	1	1
	3	8	2	4	2	2	2	1	1	5	1	1
	3	9	2	3	15	2	4	4	4	3	2	2
	3	10	2	2	0	1	1	4	5	5	5	5
	3	11	2	6	0	5	2	5	5	3	1	1
	3	12	2	2	0	5	1	5	5	3	1	1
	3	13	2	6	2	5	1	1	5	5	1	1
	3	14	2	6	0	5	3	5	5	3	1	1
	3	15	2	2	7	5	3	4	4	5	1	1
	3	16	2	1	0	1	4	3	3	5	5	5
	3	17	2	3	7	1	3	1	1	5	1	1