

Investigation of environmental noise at ExxonMobil FEP site

Planned flaring at Fife Ethylene Plant (FEP), Mossmorran Complex, Fife on 07 March 2022

A noise scientist attended the area of the Mossmorran Complex on 07 March 2022 between 1300 and 1600 in order to undertake attended noise assessments and make observations in response to the planned flaring episode at the ExxonMobil FEP site. Two unattended noise monitoring systems were also running continuously in Lochgelly and at a site immediately to the north of the Mossmorran Complex. The weather was sunny and calm with a light south easterly wind blowing.



Figure 1: Photograph of ExxonMobil FEP site taken on 7th March 2022 (the day of inspection) showing calm conditions with a blue sky, light south easterly wind and an active elevated flare

The new elevated flare tip was observed to be flaring upon arrival in the area at 1300 and continued to flare throughout the afternoon. Attended noise assessments were undertaken at four community locations, in Lochgelly, Donibristle, Auchtertool and in Hill of Beath throughout the afternoon.

The flaring was assessed as being not audible in Lochgelly, Auchtertool and in Hill of Beath and the flaring noise could not be distinguished from general site noise in Donibristle.

Since flaring noise was not audible or not distinguishable above general site noise, no quantitative BS4142 assessments were undertaken. It was assessed that there was no/low

impact on the community locations investigated and that the amenity of these areas had not been impacted on the afternoon of 07 March 2022.

It should be noted however that a helicopter was observed to be circling the area between approximately 1330 and 1400, which was audible and at times interfered with noise assessments being undertaken.

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL), the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter, enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

contactscotland-bsl.org