

Curriculum Vitae



Philip Dunbavin

MSc, FIOA, MSEE, MInst SCE.

I started my career in acoustics at the UK Atomic Energy Authority, researching the application of acoustic techniques to the instrumentation of Nuclear Reactors. This led to three years as a sales manager for a firm producing data acquisition and analysis systems with emphasis on underwater acoustic data collection and processing.

From 1981 I have been an acoustic consultant, working first for a manufacturing company and then for a large acoustic consultancy, Sound Research Laboratories. Throughout that period my particular interest was in developing computer modelling techniques for the solution of noise and vibration problems, in particular 'Noise Control at Source' techniques. Whilst at Sound Research Laboratories I co-authored a text book 'Noise in Building Services' and presented numerous technical articles.

In 1988 I left Sound Research Laboratories to found Philip Dunbavin Acoustics Ltd. PDA is now widely regarded as one of the foremost acoustic consultancies in the country.

In 1997 I became the Honorary Secretary for the Association of Noise Consultants which allowed me to assist in many aspects of the industry including work on British Standards and many ISO standards.

In 1999 I took on the role of Vice Chairman of the Association of Noise Consultants and was elected to the position of Chairman in May 2001 and in May 2003 became the Immediate past chairman.

Between July of 2002 and July of the following year, together with a fellow acoustician, Professor Sean Smith of Napier Edinburgh University, I helped run the steering group of the House Builders Federation's Robust Standard Details research project. This culminated in the formation of Robust Details Ltd which is now viewed by many as the model for achieving almost total compliance with Building Regulations. I was a director of Robust Details Ltd in its early years and still run the Inspectorate to this day.

Between 2005 and 2010 I was the Chairman of the ANC's Pre-Completion Testing Committee for domestic sound insulation measurements in accordance with Approved Document E of the Building Regulations. In May 2010 I stepped back from this role to give myself the time to rejoin the board of the ANC as Honorary Secretary for the second time.

In late 2009, as part of my retirement planning, I stepped out of full time consultancy with PDA Ltd and semi retired. I now provide consultancy services from my personal practice which I established in 2005 to enable me to work on those areas that really fascinate me. I still own PDA Ltd and am its CEO and Chairman of the board.

In December 2011 I took on the role of Convenor of Working Group 1 of the COST Action TU0901 – Integrating and Harmonising Sound Insulation Aspects in Sustainable Urban Housing Constructions. Working Group 1 developed the harmonised sound insulation descriptors and classification schemes in Europe. The project involved acousticians from 29 European countries as well as Australia, Canada and New Zealand. The project reached its conclusion at the end of 2013 and the summary report is available via a link on the Published Papers page of my web site.

In May 2012 I became the Chairman of the Association of Noise Consultants for a second time and since May 2014 I sat on the ANC board as the immediate past chairman. In June 2016 I stepped down from the board of the ANC and in December 2016 I also retired as Chairman of Robust Details Limited Inspectorate although I remain as a Robust Details Senior Inspector.

Professional Memberships

Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics

Member of the Society of Environmental Engineers

Member of the Institute of Sound and Communication Engineers

Registered with the UK Register of Expert Witness

Law Society Approved Expert Witness

Single Joint Expert

The Association of Noise Consultants

Text Books

Co-author of 'Noise Control in Building Services' published by Pergamon Press, ISBN 0-08-034067-9.

Published Papers

I have published many articles and given papers at national and international acoustic conferences. The following is a selection of recently published papers.

The development of robust details for sound insulation in new build attached dwellings.

Published in the Journal of Building Appraisal Volume 2, Number 1, March 2006.

Round Robin on Uncertainty in Sound Insulation Measurements.

Presented at the Spring Conference of the Institute of Acoustics 2007.

A study of the effects of occupied test rooms and a manual, moving microphone when measuring Airborne Sound Insulation.

Presented at the Spring Conference of the Institute of Acoustics 2008.

An examination of some aspects of the use of ISO 140 Part 4 and 7 in field measurements.

Presented at Euronoise 2009.

Can the house building industry ever achieve full compliance with the sound insulation requirements of National Building Regulations and create truly sustainable homes?

Presented at Euronoise 2012.

An investigation into the effect of historic noise policy interventions. Final Report, Annex 4, Building Regulations, 10 July 2012.

Jointly co-authored with Gary Timmins, Head of Acoustics at the Building Research Establishment as part of a project team coordinated by Rupert Taylor FIOA.

Published by DEFRA in 2013, Project NO 0234.

Towards a common framework in building acoustics throughout Europe.

Co-author and Convenor of Working Group 1.

Published as an e-book on the COST TU 0901 website, 2014.

ISO/TS 12913-2:2018 - Soundscape - Part 2: Data collection and reporting requirements - what's it all about?

Published in the Acoustics Bulletin Vol 43 No 4 July/August 2018

The Hush City project and its relevance to planning policy.

Philip Dunbavin and Dr Antonella Radicchi

Published in the Acoustics Bulletin Vol 43 No 5 September/October 2018

BSI Committees

I sit on the following BSI committees:

EH/001 – Acoustics.

I took on the role of the Chairman of EH/1 in November 2015. This committee has the overarching responsibility for all acoustic standards in the UK including British, International and CEN standards.

EH/001/03 – Residential and industrial noise.

Responsible for BS 4142: 1997 Method for rating industrial noise affecting mixed residential and industrial areas.

In February 2013 I became the current Chairman of EH/001/03.

EH/001/06 – Building Acoustics.

Responsible for all aspects of building acoustics including ISO 140, ISO 717, BS EN ISO 12354 and many others.

B/564/0-/01 – BS 8233 revision panel.

Responsible for BS 8233: 2014, Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction in buildings.

EH/001/03-02 – Residential and industrial noise.

Chairman of the Drafting Panel responsible for the revision of BS 4142: 1997 Method for rating industrial noise affecting mixed residential and industrial areas.

ISO Committees

I sit on the following ISO committees:

Technical Committee ISO/TC43, Acoustics, Subcommittee SC2, Building Acoustics

Responsible for:

ISO 140 Acoustics – Measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements.

ISO 10140 Acoustics, - Laboratory measurement of sound insulation of building elements.

ISO 717 Acoustics – Rating of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements

ISO 3382 Acoustics – Measurement of room acoustic parameters

ISO 12354 Building Acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements.

Technical Committee ISO/TC43, Acoustics, Subcommittee SC1, Noise

Responsible for:

ISO 1996 Acoustics – Description, measurement and assessment of environmental noise.

ISO 9613 Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors.

ISO 17201 Acoustics – Noise from shooting ranges.

Convenorships

I am also the convenor of the following ISO working groups:

ISO TC43 SC1 WG54 - ISO 12913 - All parts - Perceptual assessment of soundscape quality.

ISO TC43 SC1 WG62 – ISO/TS 15666:2003 – Assessment of noise annoyance by means of social and socio-acoustic surveys.

CEN Committees

I sit on the following CEN committees:

CEN/TC 126/ WG 1 – Methods for measuring the sound insulation of building elements and the acoustic performance of buildings.

CEN/TC 126/ WG 2 – Prediction of the acoustic performance from the performance of elements.