



**BELFAST INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT**

# **Belfast International Airport**

## **Sound Insulation Grant Scheme**

## **Welcome to the Belfast International Airport Sound Insulation Grant Scheme**

I am pleased to announce the introduction of the Belfast International Airport Sound Insulation Grant Scheme. Residential properties that fall within the Sound Insulation Grant Scheme (SIGS) boundary will have the opportunity to benefit from sound insulation.

Providing your residential property qualifies, the SIGS offers grants towards the cost of installing secondary glazing or high performance double glazing as well as loft insulation and mechanical ventilation.

Belfast International Airport will appoint an approved contractor to carry out the glazing works to ensure a consistently high quality of workmanship at competitive rates with the aim to minimise the household contribution.

If, after reading this document, you think you qualify for a grant, please contact the address shown at the end of the booklet.



**Graham Keddie**  
Managing Director  
Belfast International Airport

## **Why have a Sound Insulation Grant Scheme**

Belfast International Airport (BIA) is committed to the introduction of noise minimisation and mitigation measures. This Sound Insulation Grant Scheme (SIGS) forms an important part of these initiatives. It is intended to offer sound insulation to the residential properties affected most by airborne aircraft noise from aircraft using BIA. The Scheme was first introduced in 2017.

## **Area covered by the SIGS**

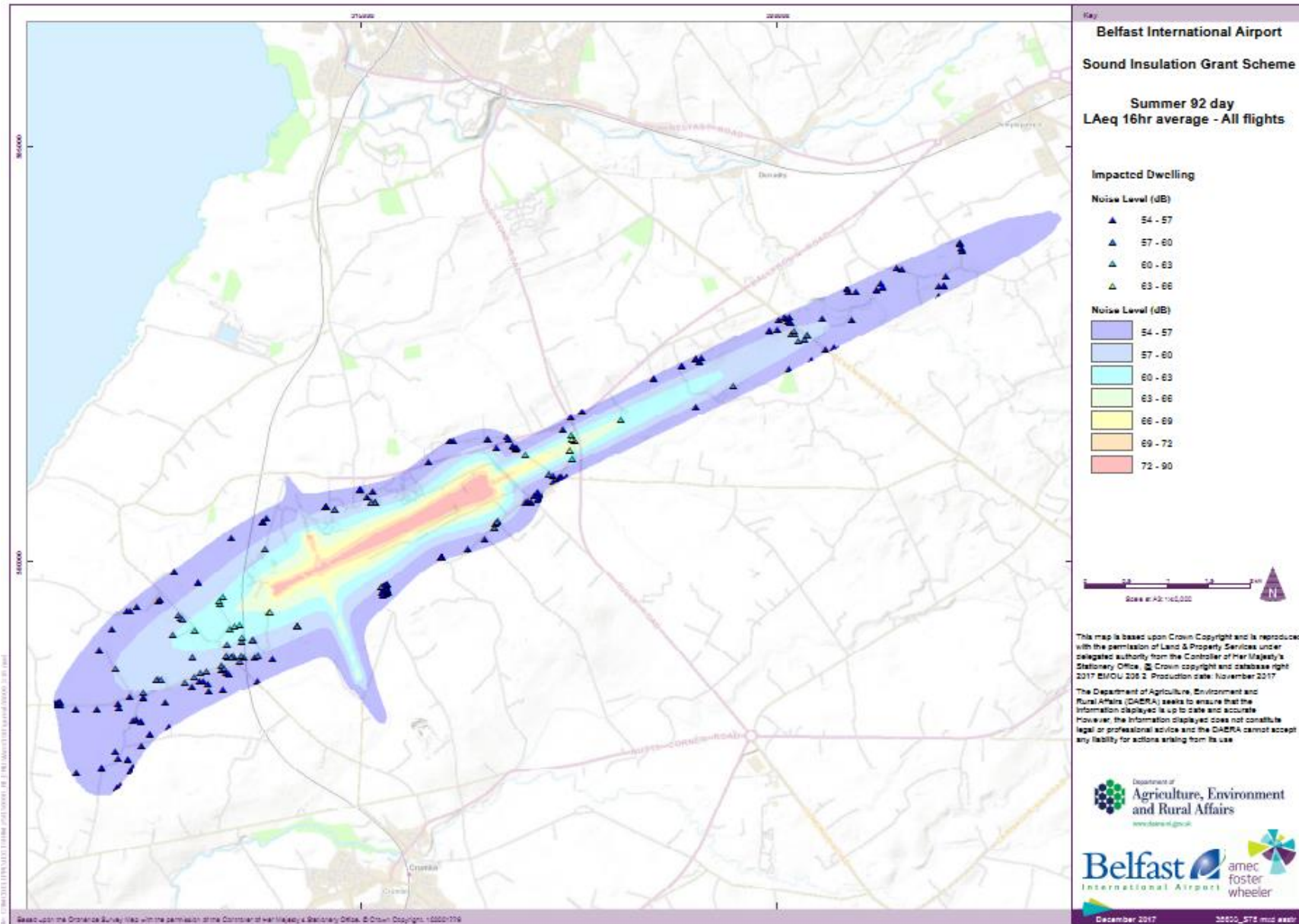
Since 1989, the standard metric that has been used for measuring noise levels is the A-weighted equivalent noise level,  $L_{eq}$  contour. This takes into account all aircraft movements and is based on an average summer day. In the UK, the noise impact of an airport is primarily described in terms of the  $LA_{eq}$  averaged over the 16 hour period from 0700 – 2300, for an average day between the 16th June and 15th September (these dates cover the busiest traffic periods for UK airports).

The boundary for this SIGS is based upon the 63  $dB LA_{eq,16h}$  noise contours taken from the Aviation Policy Framework. This means that properties are expected to receive an average noise level of 63 decibels over a typical 16 hour period (07:00 to 23:00) on a summer average day from airborne aircraft landing and departing at the airport.

## **What are noise contours?**

Noise contours depict an area exposed to a specific noise level over a period of time. The noise exposure is measured as an equivalent continuous sound level for 16 hours in dB(A). The contours are prepared using a recognised computerised noise model. The contours of equivalent continuous sound level ( $LA_{eq}$ ) are overlaid onto a base map to distinguish buildings and geographical features. The SIGS boundary is based upon the noise modelling which will be re-modelled every five years.

# 2016 Noise Contours



## **What buildings are eligible?**

Any building that is being used as a residential property regardless of its type of construction may be eligible for a grant provided that:

- It is within the scheme boundary, as shown by the noise contours described above, and
- It was built before the date this SIGS was introduced

Properties will fall within the scheme if part or all of the residential building is within the defined scheme boundary. A property will not be eligible where, for example, only part of the garden or driveway falls within the scheme boundary. It should also be noted that any modification to an existing property (for example, an extension) made after December 2003 will not qualify for grant support.

Please note that not all properties or rooms within dwellings may be suitable for the installation of acoustic secondary or double glazing.

## **Which rooms qualify for a grant?**

For homes which fall within the noise contour, the SIGS applies to a maximum of five habitable rooms. Habitable rooms are bedrooms; living rooms; dining rooms and kitchen/diners. Habitable rooms are not kitchens, bathrooms or hallways, although landing windows can be included and will count as one room.

Where an external door leads directly into a habitable room, the door may also be eligible and may be insulated to maximise noise reduction.

The householder is able to choose which eligible habitable rooms are to be insulated.

## **What can be included in the SIGS?**

This SIGS offers grants towards the cost of installing secondary glazing or high acoustic performance double glazing, loft insulation and, in certain circumstances, acoustic treatment to doors and contributions towards the purchase of window blinds. The offer is as follows:

- Secondary glazing is added to existing windows on the inside to create a double window. The second pane of glass serves to reduce the noise entering the room through the window. The minimum gap between the outer original glazing and the secondary pane should be about 100 mm. This gap may vary slightly depending on the thickness of the glass and the space available. The minimum thickness of the secondary pane will be 3 mm.

- Blinds may be fitted between the original and secondary glazing on south facing windows as part of the scheme.
- High performance double glazing is a replacement glazing system which has a similar acoustic performance to secondary glazing. The glazing units will comprise a 6 mm glass pane, 12 mm air filled cavity and 10 mm glass pane or acoustic equivalent.
- Acoustic loft insulation is usually a Rockwool type product, which has been proven to give certain noise reductions. You may apply for a grant towards the cost of purchasing your own loft insulation.
- Doors may also be insulated to achieve additional noise reduction where an external door leads into a habitable room. The grant may support the insulation or replacement of a door as necessary; a survey of the property will recommend the most appropriate insulation.

Additional items and works are permitted and could be installed at the same time at the householder's request. However, these are not eligible for grant support.

### **How much Sound Insulation Grant could I receive?**

Your sound insulation grant entitlement for an eligible property is as follows:

- Secondary glazing – 80% of the total cost up to a maximum grant of £3,000 (including any door insulation and appropriate ventilation),

OR

- High performance double glazing – 80% of the total cost up to a maximum grant of £3,000 (including any door insulation and appropriate ventilation)
- Blinds – where secondary glazing is fitted to a window facing south with the potential for solar gain an additional £135 shall be available for the purchase of Venetian blinds
- Loft insulation – up to £400 per property for the householder to purchase appropriate loft insulation and a further £100 if the loft insulation is installed by a contractor

The difference between BIA's contribution and the total cost of the installation must be met by the householder.

The levels of grant assistance will be reviewed every 5-years in line with the re-modelling of the noise contours.

### **What happens if I can't afford the householder contribution?**

Householders applying for a grant are required to pay a 20% contribution. In cases of hardship, 100% grant may be considered, but written evidence will need to be provided. If you think you may be entitled to hardship assistance, please make the Scheme Administrator aware of your situation when you apply for assistance. Each case will be considered on its merits. BIA will determine, in consultation with the Airport Consultative Committee, on any case of financial hardship. BIA may provide at its discretion 100% of the installation costs in such cases.

### **Health & Safety Considerations**

Some rooms that are insulated will probably require additional ventilation in accordance with the relevant Building Regulations to allow the flow of fresh air. Ventilators in such circumstances must be fitted in accordance with performance standards included in the current Regulations.

### **Responsibilities & Guarantees**

- All work shall be guaranteed for five years against defective workmanship or materials (except the loft insulation).
- The owner of the property to receive the grant is responsible for obtaining any necessary planning permissions, listed building consent, and building regulations etc. Costs incurred in obtaining required permissions will be met by BIA
- BIA is not responsible for any re-decoration or the lifting or refitting of carpets due to works related to or within the scheme. Any damage caused during the works will be the responsibility of the contractor
- BIA will review the noise contour (scheme boundary) every five years. Any additional residential properties falling within the revised boundary, which were constructed prior to the introduction of the SIGS, will be eligible for the scheme.
- The property will qualify for SIGS for a period of 10 years from the first date of inclusion in the scheme; however, each property is only eligible for a single grant.

## **Who will undertake the work?**

Work will only be undertaken after the Sound Insulation Grant Scheme Administrator has given approval. BIA will appoint a preferred contractor. The procurement of these products through a single contractor means BIA can obtain competitive rates to minimise the householder's financial contribution and control the quality of products and craftsmanship.

Once the householder has completed and returned the appropriate application form(s) to BIA the householder will be contacted directly. The airport will arrange this meeting at a mutually convenient time for the contractor to survey the property and discuss the options with householder.

The proposed installation will be discussed and agreed with the property owner (including the airport's financial contribution).

Once completed, the property owner will formally accept the installation and take over its responsibility.

BIA will not offer any grant for works by other contractors unless agreed in writing by BIA prior to the work commencing. If you wish the work to be undertaken by a different contractor of your own choosing please contact the Compliance Team first. Each case will be considered on its merits at the sole discretion of BIA.

## **How do I apply for a Sound Insulation Grant?**

SIGS applications must be made on the attached forms. Applications must be submitted and determined before work is carried out. Retrospective applications will not be considered.

If you are a tenant in rented accommodation, BIA must receive written agreement from your landlord confirming that they have no objection to the works. You should also identify who will be responsible for paying the householder's contribution.

Acoustic glazing/doors – please complete application form SIGS1 in full and return it to the address at the bottom of the form.

Loft Insulation - please complete application form SIGS2 in full and return it to the address at the bottom of the form.



## **Small Print**

Any grants, which BIA may approve, shall be made on the terms contained in the approval notification, which shall be deemed to incorporate all of the terms contained in this brochure. Applicants shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms contained in this brochure.

The decision of BIA or its Agents regarding the eligibility (or otherwise) of any application and/or the amount of any grant shall (save in the case of manifest error) be final and binding.

The information in this brochure was believed to be correct at the time of going to press but BIA will not be liable for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

BIA reserves the right to amend any of the terms and conditions of the Scheme at its absolute discretion, (provided that where any grant has been given final approval and the relevant purchase order has been placed prior to the date of such amendment, the amount of such grant will not be affected by such amendment).

Grants are provided for the installation of acoustic insulation only as set out in this Scheme. Any works of a decorative nature that are necessary following installation remain the sole responsibility of the householder.

BIA shall not be liable to the Applicant for the acts or omissions of the Contractor nor for the performance of the Contractor pursuant to any contract between the Contractor and the Applicant for the carrying out of any works (whether covered by the Scheme or otherwise).

BIA shall not be liable to the Contractor for the performance of any obligation on the part of the Applicant pursuant to such contract.

In any event, BIA's liability in each case shall not exceed the amount of the relevant grant calculated in accordance with this Scheme by reference to the relevant contractor's quotation.

BIA will not be responsible for obtaining any necessary planning permissions, building regulations consents, building warrants or other consents, which may be requested for carrying out the works. These are the responsibility of the Applicant.

BIA reserves the right to withdraw, alter or amend the terms of any offer or the Scheme, at its discretion, at any time.

Should you have any questions or queries relating to the information provided in this document please contact:

Sound Insulation Grant Scheme  
Compliance Department  
Belfast International Airport  
Belfast  
BT29 4AB

Email: [bfs.environment@bfs.aero](mailto:bfs.environment@bfs.aero)