

Rural Tranquillity Bill

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B I L L

TO

Provide for the establishment of an indicator for rural tranquillity; to provide for the protection of rural tranquillity in the planning process; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Definition and measurement

- (1) The Secretary of State shall have a duty to promote the protection and enhancement of rural tranquillity.
- (2) In pursuance of his duty under subsection (1), the Secretary of State may by regulation provide for—
 - (a) a definition of the term “rural tranquillity”, including its application in an urban environment, and
 - (b) an indicator or indicators which can be used for the measurement of rural tranquillity.
- (3) Before making any regulations under subsection (2), the Secretary of State shall consult—
 - (a) Natural England,
 - (b) the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and
 - (c) such organisations with a relevant interest as appear to him to be appropriate.
- (4) The power conferred by this section to make regulations shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (5) No regulations may be made under this section unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

2 Annual reports on rural tranquillity

- (1) The Secretary of State may require a competent organisation of his choice to report, on an annual basis, on—
- (a) levels of rural tranquillity, broken down on a regional basis, and
 - (b) any measures taken by the Government during the preceding 12 months to promote the protection and enhancement of rural tranquillity. 5

3 Planning policy

- (1) The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (c. 5) is amended as follows.
- (a) After section 3(2)(b) insert— 10
 - “(ba) the protection and enhancement of rural tranquillity in the region.”
 - (b) After section 13(2)(d) insert— 15
 - “(da) the protection and enhancement of rural tranquillity in the area.”
- (2) The Secretary of State shall, at any time he sees fit, make any amendments to Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act and shall have regard to his duty under section 1 in publishing further such Statements and Guidance.

4 Short title and extent 20

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Rural Tranquillity Act 2007.
- (2) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

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