

■ Tekst 4

Splitting ear drums

Needed: new standards on noise

Tinnitus – the buzzing in the head which doctors thought would dwindle with the decline of heavy industry – is on the increase. No one should 12. Personal stereos, new sound systems in clubs and new stereo systems in cinemas have replaced the threat to hearing which steamhammers and clanking industrial machines posed in the past. Factories where the noise level exceeds 85 decibels are now required to provide their workers with ear plugs. However, club owners who allow their DJs to far exceed this level are under 13. Yet any noise above 85 decibels can threaten serious hearing loss.

Cinemas often breach the recommended noise level of 82 decibels for feature films. The British Standards Institution has proposed a new draft standard to control and limit cinema sound levels. To its credit the Cinema Advertisers'

Association has welcomed the move. Certainly the young may be more ready to accept a noisy environment than older generations, but people from all age groups have been complaining against excessive noise in cinema trailers. Consequently, even film advertisers have now 14 their obligation to pay more attention to safe noise levels.

Will public health ministers follow suit? The Royal National Institute for the Deaf has been pointing to the danger of noise for years. It believes millions of people are destroying irreplaceable hair cells in their inner ears but will not recognise the damage until it is too late. The World Health Organisation has declared noise to be a significant threat to health. But unlike America, the UK does not recognise International Noise Awareness Day. Time to wake up, 15.

The Guardian

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Kies bij iedere open plek in de tekst het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.

1p **12** ■

- A be surprised
- B feel responsible
- C get worried

1p **13** ■

- A close surveillance
- B no similar obligation
- C severe financial pressure
- D the same strict regime

1p **14** ■

- A criticised
- B ignored
- C recognised

1p **15** ■

- A club owners
- B film advertisers
- C ministers
- D teenagers