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Locals name and shame noisy LNG carriers

A local pressure group in South Wales is piling on pressure for producer Qatargas to fit the large LNG carriers bringing cargoes into the South Hook terminal with larger silencers.

South Hook LNG Ship Noise has published a new list of what it sees as the worst vessel offenders.

According to data published on its website, statutory noise nuisance complaints were made in relation to seven Q-Max LNG carriers that have visited the South Hook terminal.

Five of those ships have

returned again, however, without having the silencers fitted. One of them, the 266,000-cbm Mekaines (built 2009), has visited three times.

The pressure group details that the 266,000-cbm Al Mafyar (built 2009) and 261,700-cbm Al Ghuwairiya (built 2008)

have been back twice and the 266,000-cbm Mozah (built 2008) and 266,000-cbm Bu Samra (built 2008) both once.

The website claims that of two Q-Max yet to visit the terminal, one of the most recently delivered, the 266,000-cbm Shagra (built 2009), is fitted with a

silencer while the 266,000-cbm Al Mayeda (built 2009) is not.

In addition, eight Q-Flex have had work done on their silencers.

Local marine officials watching the LNG traffic said the compressors on the vessels can be "quite noisy" with a low hum audible from the shore.

The pressure group said it has been advised by operator Qatargas: "There may be occasions, due to commercial interests and vessel availability, where it will not always be possible to send only non-problematic vessels."

LNG CARRIER FLEET BY TYPE				
Type	Delivered	On order	Conversion	Total
Ship	343	30	0	374
FPSO	0	4	0	4
FSRU	3	1	1	4
RV	9	2	0	10
TOTAL	355	36	1	392

Source: RS Platou