

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2023/3777/P	Chantell Fenton	24/12/2023 01:27:35	OBJ	

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the planning application 2023/3777/P for the installation of air conditioning units and the extract duct at the site located at 24-28 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SN.

Although a planning application had previously been granted for a similar application in 2018 [(2017/6518/P)], we live in a very different world now. The circumstances and understanding of the impact of such developments have significantly evolved and I therefore hope you will reject this fresh application.

I object to this application on the following grounds:

* Changing Work and Lifestyle Dynamics: In 2023, the majority of people work from home, necessitating a quiet environment. The disturbance which will be caused by the air conditioning units will directly impacts the ability of the residents of Russell Chambers to work effectively from their homes.

* Increased Awareness of Mental Health Impacts: Our understanding of mental health has deepened over recent years. The World Health Organization (WHO) in its 2018 "Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region" highlighted the detrimental effects of noise pollution on mental health, including exacerbating stress-related symptoms, depression, and anxiety. The proposed development poses a significant risk to the mental well-being of the residents of Russell Chambers.

* Inadequate Location of the Fresh Air System: The placement of the fresh air system is highly unsuitable. It creates an echo chamber of noise, which resonates throughout our residential building, from block 1 to block 3, affecting the entire building. This issue is not isolated to one flat - it affects every resident of Russell Chambers and will lead to a significant deterioration in our quality of life. The expectation for residents to tolerate such disturbance is unreasonable.

* Noise Disturbance: Noise from the air conditioning fans will cause a substantial disturbance to our daily life. Constant noise intrusion between the hours of 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday is intolerable. It will be incredibly difficult to concentrate during the day, work from home, and even enjoy simple moments of peace and quiet.

* Inaccuracies in the Noise Assessment Report: The report suggests that due to a high-level boundary wall shielding the lower floors of the residential block, the 2nd-floor windows are more susceptible to noise changes. Consequently, the noise assessment was conducted 12 meters away from the plant. However, this assessment overlooks a crucial factor: the wall does not provide complete sound insulation. In reality, the noise from the air conditioning units is clearly audible even in the lower ground floor flats. These flats, many of which have their own lightwell or garden, experience an amplified level of noise. The only barrier between these flats and the source of the noise is the boundary wall, which is insufficient to block the sound effectively. This significant oversight in the noise assessment report calls into question the accuracy and reliability of its findings, making it an unsound basis for any decision-making related to this planning application.

* To further illustrate my point I was unfortunately off-sick during the commissioning of the air conditioning unit and due to the excessive noise I was unable to sleep in my own bedroom during the day.

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In light of these concerns, I urge the Planning Department to reject this application. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kind regards,

Chantell

2023/3777/P Hitesh Maisuria 23/12/2023 13:51:32 OBJ

I would like to object to this application for the following reason.

"In terms of checking the dBA levels once commissioned, our method statement highlights the contractor would complete their own reading of the units from one of the upper office windows, replicating a distance of 12 meters from the noise. This will mimic the noise to the nearest residential window"

However, this statement is factually inaccurate. While the nearest visible residential window may indeed be 12 meters away, it is crucial to note that the air conditioning units are positioned adjacent to the boundary wall. Therefore, the actual proximity of the closest windows to the units is less than 2 meters, separated only by the aircon units and a wall. Additionally, it is pertinent to consider that the lower ground flats are equipped with gardens, which would be rendered unusable due to the excessive noise from the air conditioning units.

This raises a pertinent question: if Runway East cannot accurately gauge the proximity of the nearest residential property, how can we place confidence in the validity of their planning application? This apparent discrepancy gives rise to the suspicion that the business is attempting to mislead the council and obtain planning permission without providing a true representation of the adverse impact on the residents of Russell Chambers.

I would like to highlight that the World Health Organization (WHO) has underscored the detrimental effects of noise pollution on public health in its 2018 "Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region."

The residents of Russell Chambers work during the day and some during the night, so having a the noise of the air conditioning unit on during office hours will definitely disturb their sleep. Additionally Russell Chambers only have single glazed sash windows which don't have any sound proving protection.
