

Direct Dial: +44 (0) 20 3668 7203

Email: PierangeloDiStefano@hoarelea.com

Ref: LET\_1005186-2E\_PD\_20140115\_RE Planning installation  
Application\_1



Maya Rhodes  
Environmental Health Officer  
London Borough of Camden  
Town Hall Extension (Environment)  
Argyle Street  
London WC1H 8EQ

Tel +44 (0) 20 3668 7100  
Fax +44 (0) 20 3479 1591

Western Transit Shed  
12-13 Stable Street  
London N1C 4AB

15 January 2014

Dear Ms Rhodes,

**Re: Mortimer Market: Planning Application – installation of an air handling unit and three condensers**

In response to your email of 3rd January 2014 to my colleague Barry Jobling, we are pleased to offer the following comments. We understand you have two points following review of the acoustic report submitted with the planning application for the new plant installation at Mortimer Market..

1. You point out the need to comply with Camden policy DP28.
2. You require confirmation of the total noise of all units operating.

Firstly, we need to make you aware that the report dated 11/11/2013 you refer to was a draft version replaced by the issued version dated 15/11/2013. We are not sure why you have been supplied with this outdated document, but sorry it has caused confusion.

**Noise limits in accordance with DP28**

With regards to the set noise limits, Policy DP28 for noise and vibration has been followed. In the policy, it is stated that noise from plant and machinery at 1 meter external to a sensitive façade has to be 5dB(A) lower than the measured typical  $L_{A90}$  if distinguishable discrete continuous noise and distinct impulses are not present.

The current background noise environment is affected by road traffic noise and existing building environmental engineering services equipment serving the surrounding buildings to the site. Installation of new improved services plant is not expected to result in the introduction of a characteristically different type of sound source. As it is possible to observe in Appendix C of the acoustic report, the sound power level octave-band spectrum of the AHU does not contain obvious tonal components, and distinct impulses are not expected with this type of equipment with for example soft start motors included as standard. The specification of equipment by the mechanical and electrical design consultant calls for equipment to not have any such undesirable tones. As such, the 5 dB(A) below background has been considered appropriate for the situation, and this approach has been adopted in numerous cases in Camden in recent years.

**Total noise from all new units**

Section 6 of the report assesses the units with no acoustic treatment and concludes that noise mitigation would be needed. Under sub-section 6.2.4, the report advises that the air handling units will need silencers to the fresh air intake and exhaust. As the final unit would not have been selected prior to receipt of planning permission the approach taken was to set a maximum allowable level of noise from the AHU. The level was set at 40 dB(A) at the noise sensitive location, 20 m away. This would then enable sizing of the silencers relative to the noise output of the final selected unit.



In terms of the total noise, the accumulation of noise from the silenced AHU which would lead a noise level of not more than 40 dB at the nearest noise sensitive façade 20 m away, and the contribution of noise from the three condensing units would be 47.4 dB(A). This is less than the daytime (0700-1900) limit of 48 dB(A).

Condensing unit 1 would not operate after 1900, as has been confirmed with the design engineers, and so there would only be a contribution from the AHU plus condensing units 2 and 3. The resulting total noise would be 45 dB(A). This would meet the evening (1900-2300) noise limit. The plant would not operate during night-time hours.

Yours sincerely,  
**Hoare Lea**

**Pierangelo Di Stefano**  
Graduate Acoustics Engineer