RBA ACOUSTICS

DABBOUS
39 WHITFIELD STREET

LONDON

Noise Assessment

REPORT 5311/NAR
Prepared: 14 January 2013
Revision Number: 1

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39 Whitfield Street
London

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Revision	Comment	Date	Prepared By	Approved By
Zero	First issue of report	9 January 2013	Robert Barlow	Torben Andersen
One	Following comments	14 January 2013	Robert Barlow	Torben Andersen

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is desired to extend the current operating hours so that the venue can operate until 01:30 Monday through to Sunday. The venue currently operates Monday to Sunday until 23:30 hours

As part of the preparation for this application, RBA Acoustics Ltd has been commissioned to undertake an assessment of the potential acoustic issues associated with the current operation and potential extension to the operating hours.

Measurements have been undertaken over two separate night time periods in order to assess levels of both noise break-out from the premises and also noise due to patron egress. These studies were undertaken for a typical night-time operation and also when a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) was in place, such that the venue was operating until 01:30 hours.

The results of the assessment are detailed in this report although the following is a brief summary of the conclusions:

- The nearest residential properties to the venue are located on Scala Street. We understand there have been no problems with the current operation of Dabbous during normal operations.
- Internal noise break-out from the premises was inaudible at the assessment position.
- Measurements of typical noise levels were made over typical TEN and non-TEN periods in order to establish whether the increased operating hours led to any noticeable noise increase to noise levels within Whitfield Street and Scala Street.
- The results of the measurements suggest that noise levels between the current 23:30 closing and the proposed extended operating hours are relatively consistent.

Based upon the above, it is our conclusion that the proposed extension to operating hours to 01:30 should not result in any reduction to the amenity of local residents in terms of noise impact.

2.0 LICENSING CONDITIONS

The following licensing conditions have been received from the London Borough of Camden with respect to these premises.

1. *Before 23:00 hours, the noise climate of the surrounding area shall be protected such that the A-weighted equivalent continuous noise level (L_{Aeq}) emanating from the application site, as measured 1m from any façade of any noise sensitive premises over any 5 minute period with entertainment taking place, shall not increase by more than 5dB as compared to the same measure, from the same position, and over a comparable period, with no entertainment taking place.*

   The un-weighted equivalent noise level noise (L_{eq}) in the 63Hz Octave band, measured using the "fast" time constant, inside any living room of any noise sensitive premises, with the windows open or closed, over any 5 minute period with entertainment taking place, should show no increase as compared to the same measure, from the same location(s), and over a comparable period, with no entertainment taking place.

2. *After 23:00 hours, the noise climate of the surrounding area shall be protected such that the A-weighted equivalent continuous noise level (L_{Aeq}) emanating from the application site, as measured 1m from any façade of any noise sensitive premises over any 5 minute period with entertainment taking place, shall not increase by more than 3dB as compared to the same measure, from the same position, and over a comparable period, with no entertainment taking place.*

   The un-weighted equivalent noise level noise (L_{eq}) in the 63Hz Octave band, measured using the "fast" time constant, inside any living room of any noise sensitive premises, with the windows open or closed, over any 5 minute period with entertainment taking place, should show no increase as compared to the same measure, from the same location(s), and over a comparable period, with no entertainment taking place.

It should be noted that the above conditions relate to (music) noise breakout from the premises rather than patron dispersal.

3.0 OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENTS

We visited the Dabbous premises on 8 December and 15 December 2012 in order to undertake both objective and subjective measurements of noise associated with the restaurant as experienced outside the premises on Whitfield Street and Scala Street.

Both periods were Saturday nights, which we understand to represent the typically busiest periods, and the restaurant was full on both nights. On the 15 December 2012, the venue was operating under a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) and as such the opening hours were extended until 01:30 hours. On 8 December 2012, the venue was in operation as per the current operating hours (23:30).

Measurements were made directly opposite the venue at the junction of Scala Street and Whitfield Street.

Measurements were made at a height of 1.2m above ground level from 23:30 hours until 02:00 hours. This time period was chosen such that a comparison between the noise levels generated during current and proposed (extended) operating hours could be gained including any increase to the noise climate at these locations due to the premises.

The measurements were made using the following equipment, which was calibrated prior to and on completion of each survey period with no significant drift being observed.

The following equipment was used for the measurements.

Table 5311/T1 – Equipment Details

Manufacturer	Model Type	Serial No.	Calibration	
			Certificate No.	Expiry Date
01dB A&V Type 1 Sound Level	Blue Solo 01	60611	U12035	14 September 2014
01dB A&V Pre Amplifier	PRE 21 S	13678		
01dB A&V ½" Microphone	MCE 212	84967		
01dB-Stell Calibrator	Cal 21	50441920	U12033	13 September 2014

The results of the measurements are detailed in Table 5311/T2 below.

Table 5311/T1 – Equipment Details

Time Period	$L_{Aeq, 5mins}$ (dB) TEN Night	$L_{Aeq, 5mins}$ (dB) Non-TEN Night	Difference (dB)
23:30 - 23:35	57.2	55.0	2.2
23:35 - 23:40	57.7	56.4	1.3
23:40 - 23:45	55.5	55.3	0.2
23:45 - 23:50	53.9	58.4	-4.5
23:50 - 23:55	55.8	60.9	-5.1
23:55 - 00:00	55.7	67.5*	-11.8
00:00 - 00:05	59.4	66.4*	-7.0
00:50 - 00:10	56.8	56.7	0.1
00:10 - 00:15	57.8	57.9	-0.1
00:15 - 00:20	55.7	55.9	-0.2
00:20 - 00:25	60.4	59.4	1.0
00:25 - 00:30	55.9	56.4	-0.5
00:30 - 00:35	58.0	58.0	0.0
00:35 - 00:40	57.0	58.8	-1.8
00:40 - 00:45	56.6	57.7	-1.1
00:45 - 00:50	57.0	57.7	-0.7
00:50 - 00:55	55.6	56.2	-0.6
00:55 - 01:00	57.5	54.4	3.1
01:00 - 01:05	56.6	55.0	1.6
01:05 - 01:10	59.2 +	54.5	4.7
01:10 - 01:15	55.6	53.8	1.8
01:15 - 01:20	54.9	53.8	1.1
01:20 - 01:25	58.9 +	53.5	5.4
01:25 - 01:30	56.2	53.1	3.1
01:30 - 01:35	56.0	53.9	2.1
01:35 - 01:40	54.6	52.8	1.8
01:40 - 01:45	53.4	56.7	-3.3
01:45 - 01:50	54.5	57.2	-2.7
01:50 - 01:55	56.6	55.0	1.6
01:55 - 02:00	59.4	55.9	3.5

* Emergency vehicle sirens in the local area.
\+ Activity at 23 Scala Street

With reference to the above Table, it can be seen that measurements over the TEN and non-TEN nights are generally comparable. There are 5 minute periods that are noisier on the non-TEN night than the TEN night and vice-versa. This would indicate that there are other factors outside of the control of the restaurant premises that affect the measured levels, such as traffic and other local activity.

Without considering such extraneous events it can be seen that noise on the TEN night was >3dB higher than the non-TEN night for a total of four occasions when the restaurant was open later than normal.

This would indicate that for the majority of operating time the premises are operating within the licensing conditions for the extended period. The licensing conditions also refer to 'entertainment noise' from the premises. As described in the following Section 4.0, noise from the premises was inaudible and as such the differences in measured levels are attributable to local traffic and pedestrian movements passing the measurement position than any specific noise source associated with the restaurant.

4.0 SUBJECTIVE OBSERVATIONS

In addition to the objective measurements undertaken opposite the restaurant, subjective assessments were also carried out of the typical noise climate along Whitfield Street and Scala Street on both TEN and non-TEN nights.

General Comments

On both the TEN and the non-TEN nights, noise levels were found to be predominantly affected by ambient traffic from Goodge Street and Charlotte Street and less frequent local vehicle movements on Scala Street and Whitfield Street. On the TEN night local noise levels were also affected by a party taking place at 23 Scala Street adjacent the premises.

Noise Break-out

It was, in general, not possible to discern noise break-out from the Dabbous premises on either of the nights. Noise from within the premises was faintly audible when the doors were opened to allow patrons to enter or to leave. This was relatively infrequent as, unlike a bar, there are fewer comings and goings associated with a restaurant. Operations are therefore unlikely to give rise to any noise problems resulting from noise break-out of the premises and would be compliant with the Licensing Conditions.

Patron Dispersal

We were able to observe patrons departures from Dabbous throughout our survey periods and noted these to be undertaken in a quiet manner. The majority of patrons were noted to immediately leave the vicinity and head South along Whitfield Street towards Tottenham Court Road, usually in small groups of two.

As the premises are a restaurant, there is a gradual dispersal of patrons from the premises as patrons finish their meals/drinks. This inevitably helps to minimise any noise disturbance that can be generated when large groups of patrons leave premises simultaneously (as can happen with public houses).

Almost all of the patrons departing the premises were noted to leave on foot. There was one group of patrons at closing on the TEN night that remained outside the premises waiting for a pre-booked taxi.

Should the proposed extension to operating hours be granted, we would recommend that the premises ensure that any patrons wishing to take a pre-booked taxi remain within the premises until the taxi arrives so as to ensure there are no persons waiting outside. However, as discussed above, the majority of persons leave the premises and head towards Tottenham Court Road for public transport or black cab taxis.

5.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The measurements (both objective and subjective) for the venue operation under the TEN are considered to be representative of typical noise levels associated with operation of the venue should an extension to operating hours be granted.

As a result, comparing the conditions observed on the TEN and Non-TEN nights is considered a reasonable method of determining the potential for any noise impact should the operating hours be extended until this time.

As described in Section 3.0, noise levels did not vary significantly between the two measurement periods. Noise break-out from the venue, did not make any contribution to the overall noise climate. In fact, general traffic movements along Whitfield Street and Scala Street were generally the main source of noise over both periods.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

As indicated above, we do not consider the proposed extension to the operating hours will result in any detrimental effect on the prevailing noise climate at the nearby residential properties and that the operations would continue to be within the Licensing Conditions.

It is therefore our professional opinion that the proposed extension to operating hours will not alter the acceptability of the current operations. We therefore recommend that the proposed extension to operating hours should not be refused on the grounds of noise.

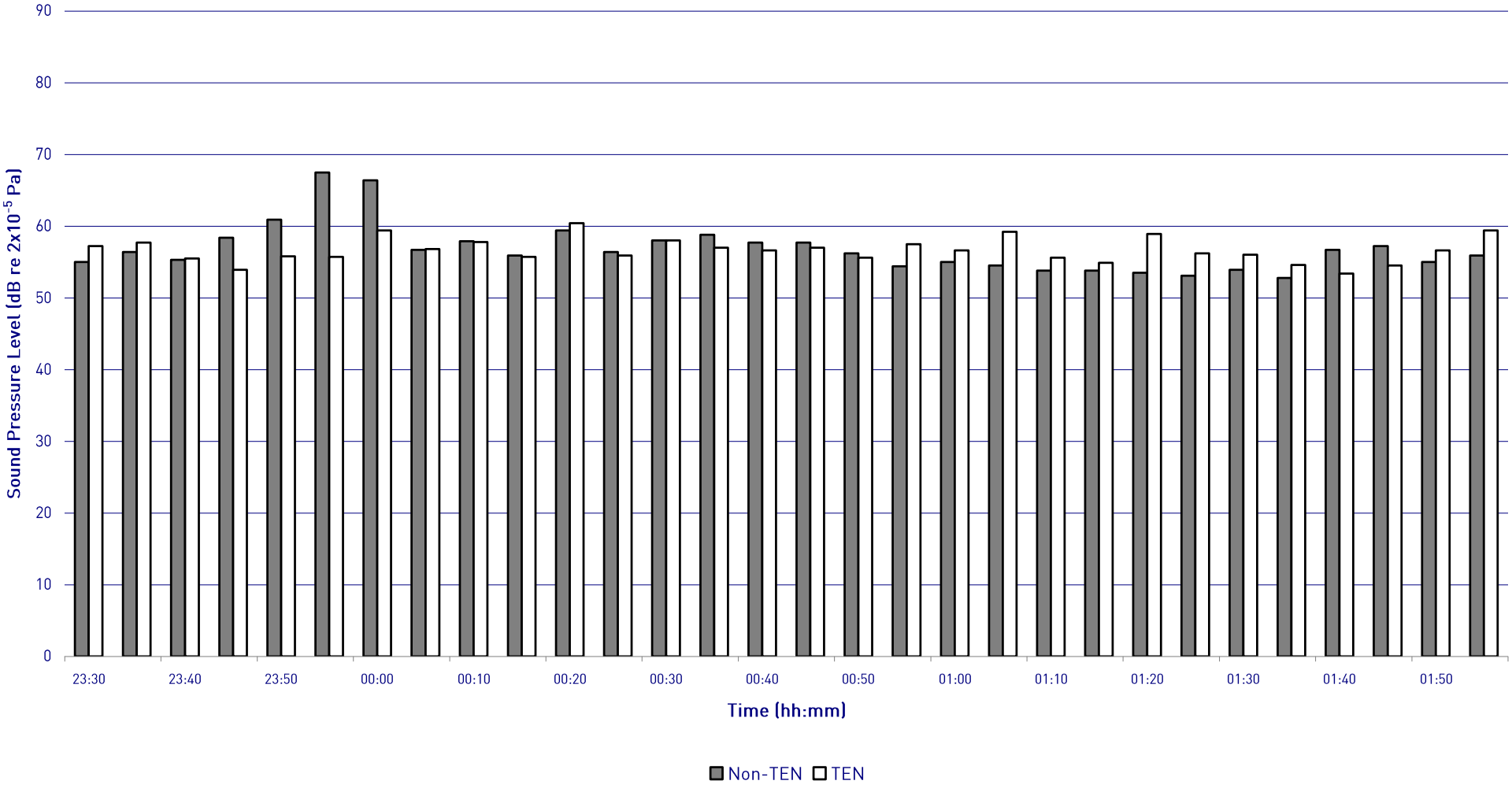
Appendix A - Acoustic Terminology

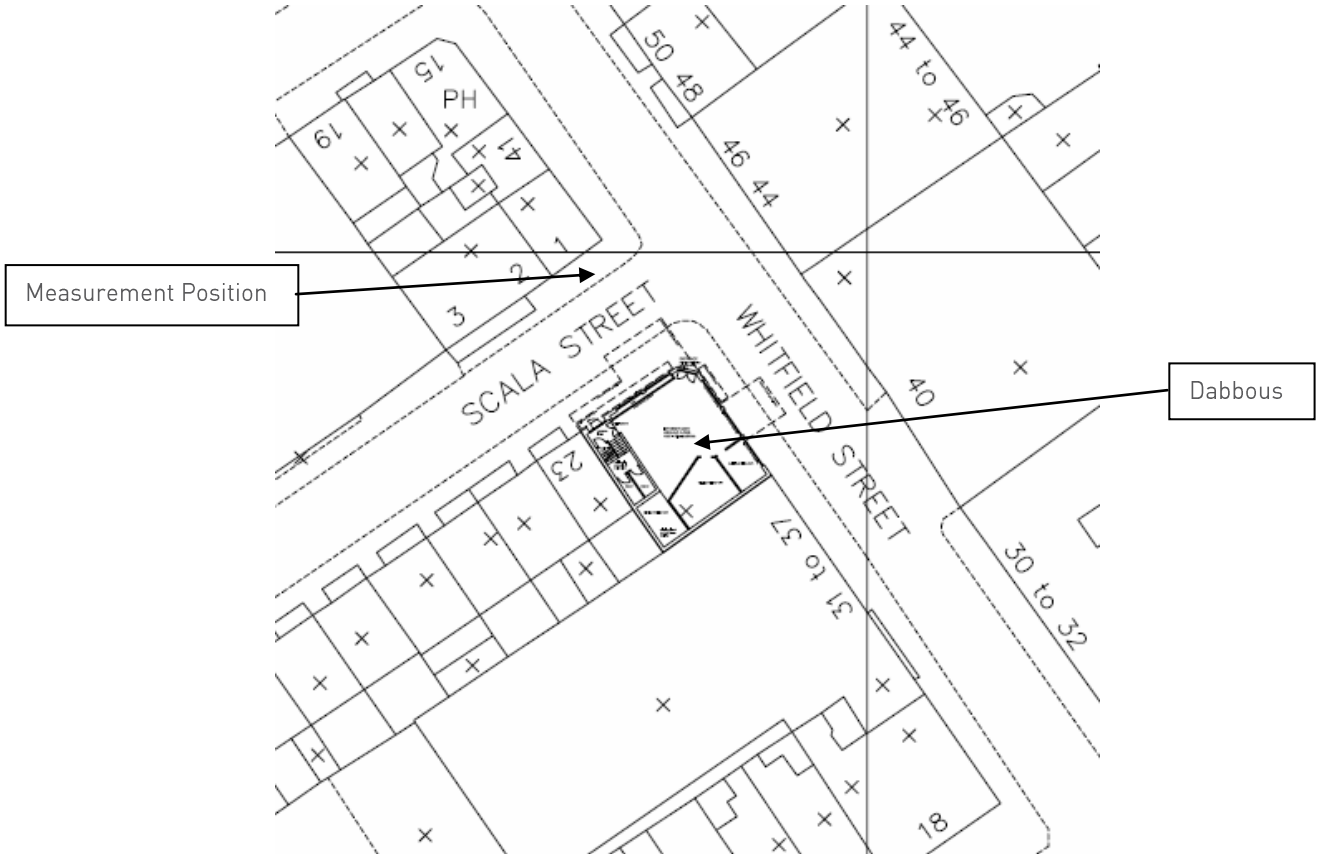
dB	Decibel - Used as a measurement of sound pressure level. It is the logarithmic ratio of the noise being assessed to a standard reference level.
dB(A)	The human ear is more susceptible to mid-frequency noise than the high and low frequencies. To take account of this when measuring noise, the 'A' weighting scale is used so that the measured noise corresponds roughly to the overall level of noise that is discerned by the average human. It is also possible to calculate the 'A' weighted noise level by applying certain corrections to an un-weighted spectrum. The measured or calculated 'A' weighted noise level is known as the dB(A) level. Because of being a logarithmic scale noise levels in dB(A) do not have a linear relationship to each other. For similar noises, a change in noise level of 10dB(A) represents a doubling or halving of subjective loudness. A change of 3dB(A) is just perceptible.
L_{eq}	L_{eq} is defined as a notional steady sound level which, over a stated period of time, would contain the same amount of acoustical energy as the actual, fluctuating sound measured over that period (1 hour).
L_{Aeq}	The level of notional steady sound which, over a stated period of time, would have the same A-weighted acoustic energy as the A-weighted fluctuating noise measured over that period.
L_{An} (e.g L_{A10}, L_{A90})	If a non-steady noise is to be described it is necessary to know both its level and the degree of fluctuation. The L_n indices are used for this purpose, and the term refers to the level exceeded for n% of the time, hence L_{10} is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and as such can be regarded as the 'average maximum level'. Similarly, L_{90} is the average minimum level and is often used to describe the background noise.
$L_{max,T}$	The instantaneous maximum sound pressure level which occurred during the measurement period, T. It is commonly used to measure the effect of very short duration bursts of noise, such as for example sudden bangs, shouts, car horns, emergency sirens etc. which audibly stand out from the general level of, say, traffic noise, but because of their very short duration, maybe only a very small fraction of a second, may not have any effect on the L_{eq} value.

Dabbous, 39 Whitfield Street, London W1

L_{Aeq} Time History

Graph 5311/G1





DABBOUS, 39 WHITFIELD STREET, LONDON

Site Plan Detailing Measurement Position

Site Plan 5311/SP1

14 January 2012

Not to scale

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