



**To:** Tony Royle  
**Company:** JAB Design  
**Email:** tony.royle@jab.uk.com  
**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014  
**Our Ref:** 8083/0792/RDC/1

ACOUSTIC  
CONSULTANTS

## Re: Application Ref: 2014/054/P – Acoustic Assessment

I have read the objections of Peter Zenneck in his letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 and have responded to the comments relating the Philip Dunbavin Acoustics report dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013 below (Peter Zenneck comments reproduced in italic type);

- *The readings were only taken over a 24-hour period (midweek). Since residential properties are affected by the noise the monitoring should have been taken over a weekend period.*

A 24-hour midweek assessment of existing background noise was carried out at the location. This is fully in accordance with the guidance of Camden Council and is detailed on the Camden Council website under the heading 'Noise, vibration and ventilation assessments'.

See <http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/environment/planning-and-built-environment/two/planning-applications/making-an-application/supporting-documentation/noise-vibration-and-ventilation-assessments.en>

We would also note that the units do not operate at weekends and hence a weekend ambient noise survey is not appropriate for this assessment.

- *There is an over reliance on manufacturers' acoustic data. Since this is a retrospective planning application why weren't noise readings taken with HVAC equipment on as well as off?*

The items of plant assessed were only two items at the site, which was also affected by noise from numerous existing items of plant, and by constantly varying background noise from road traffic, aircraft, and other ambient noise sources. In such situations it is not possible to accurately measure the noise due individual items of plant because of the effects of constantly changing background noise and noise from other local sources which cannot be isolated from the measurements. In such cases a more accurate method is to take noise levels from the new plant which have been measured in isolation, away from other noise sources and plant, i.e. the manufacturers acoustic data.

The assessment using this methodology is exactly the same as would have been carried out for a prior application rather than a retrospective application. There is no reason why the application being retrospective should make any difference to the acceptability of the assessment methodology.

- *The assessment does not consider the cumulative noise of the equipment. It only assesses each piece of equipment individually and not total plant noise.*

This statement is incorrect. The assessment is for total cumulative plant noise due to the two new items considered. The noise level due to plant reported in Table 3 of the report is the cumulative total for both units. This can be seen in the Soundplan model shown in Figure 2 at the rear of the

### Philip Dunbavin Acoustics Ltd.

Alder House · Willow Tree Park · Booths Lane · Lymm · Cheshire WA13 0GH

Tel: 01925 759380 Fax: 01925 759320 · [www.pdaltd.com](http://www.pdaltd.com)

Directors: P. R. Dunbavin · J. A. Dunbavin  
Registered Number 2302847 England

Registered Office: Alder House · Willow Tree Park · Booths Lane · Lymm · Cheshire WA13 0GH

architectural  
environmental  
occupational  
industrial  
noise control at source  
project management  
planning  
legal services  
expert witness

ANC  
THE ASSOCIATION OF  
NOISE CONSULTANTS

report where the two individual sources and the cumulative total at the receiver is shown.

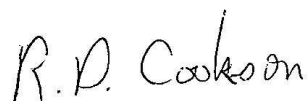
- *No adjustment has been made for increased noise level due to acoustic reflections in Bromley Place.*

This statement is also incorrect. Acoustic reflections in the surrounding buildings have been taken into account in the Soundplan model. This is discussed in the report in Section 6.1 "Method of Calculation".

- *The data does not include a fair representation of the noise levels in the area. The study period was not an ordinary period and the study makes no mention of the actual survey conditions. During said period (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2013), the BBC was filming at the corner of Conway Street and Fitzroy Square. A copy of an email from Camden Film Department is attached confirming the Council permitted parking on Conway Street for the aforementioned period for various equipment including satellite link and generator vehicles. This activity and equipment created an abnormally elevated background noise from Conway Street into Bromley Place.*

We were not aware of any unusual activity at the time of the background noise survey. Subjectively the noise was dominated by road traffic on the surrounding roads with some mechanical services noise from the existing plant in Bromley Place audible during the quieter periods (as detailed in Section 5.2 of the report). The letter from Camden Film Department attached to Mr Zenneck's letter confirms that the only change was that three technical BBC vehicles were allowed to park on single yellow lines on Conway Street. I would not expect such parked vehicles to make any significant noise and as such would regard the survey as valid. Even when the vehicles were broadcasting such vehicles are designed to be low noise to prevent interference with their own filming requirements. Furthermore it is unlikely that these vehicles will have been in operation during the quietest part of the survey at 03:30 am which is the noise level on which the assessment has been based.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Cookson PhD, BSc(Hons), MIOA  
Acoustic Consultant