



The Heath & Hampstead Society

P.O. BOX 38214 LONDON NW3 1XD

The Society examines all Planning Applications relating to Hampstead, and assesses them for their impact on conservation and on the local environment.

To London Borough of Camden, Development Control Team

Planning Ref: 2015/2813/P

Address: Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, NW3

Description: Standby generator enclosure.

Case Officer: Charles Thuaire

Date 18 June 2015

This is a comparatively minor proposal, with little visual impact. However, the potential noise impact of standby generator equipment is considerable, and this is a matter of local concern.

The site of the enclosure backs onto adjacent residential development in Lawn Road; some 20 or so dwellings could be affected.

The Acoustic Report seeks to be reassuring on noise impact, but is not, we think, worded clearly or unambiguously enough. The plant is to be screened but not enclosed, and noise figures of 62 dBA are referred to; it is unclear whether this an excess level of noise, or the total noise emitted. 62 dBA sounds suspiciously low for what is plainly a large generator.

Also, there is mention of its use being limited to certain daylight hours. Surely the purpose of a standby plant is to provide electrical security in case of failure? And surely the hospital operates on a 24-hour basis? The concept of standby power being closed off at 6 p.m. is surely unrealistic?

We would be reassured if

- a. the figures were expressed clearly, in plain English, and
- b. the plant were given more acoustic protection, such as enclosure.