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25 April 2017

Ref: 12150-170425-L3

Lee Landau
By email on: lee@s-grp.co.uk

Dear Lee,

12150: 51 FAIRFAX ROAD, LONDON

Further to our recent correspondence, I understand some questions have been raised over the noise survey and subsequent noise impact assessment for the above address. My understanding is that the queries raised are as follows

1. Why the ambient noise levels in our survey are so much louder than the minimum background noise levels,
2. Why minimum background noise levels are louder than those measured during a survey in a similar location and,
3. What effects this will have on the assessment of plant noise.

I will aim to respond to these points in turn below.

Please note that our engineer met a representative of the London Borough of Camden on site and it was confirmed that he was happy with our proposed procedure.

1.1 Ambient Noise Levels in our Survey

As shown in Table 4.1 of our report '12150-NIA-01 RevE', minimum background noise levels are 48 dB(A), while average ambient levels are 63 dB(A).

While the average ambient level is inherently louder than minimum background, this difference is more than typical.

By viewing the time history for this project (attached to this letter for reference), it can be seen that the daytime period on 28 February 2017 was affected by loud noise levels. This could be due to occurrences such as construction noise, or other anomalous events. This is not apparent on the afternoon of 27 February 2017, when ambient noise levels are in the range 50-55 dB(A).

It is understood that construction works were ongoing at No. 47 Fairfax Road, which may explain the elevated ambient noise levels. However, it must be stressed that by using minimum background noise levels to set criteria, the effects of this are completely discounted from our assessment of background noise levels. This will also discount any effects of restaurant noise or other nearby commercial sound.

As criteria are based on operating hours (08:00-21:00), we would expect the minimum background noise to occur early in the morning or late in the evening, which are both unaffected by the anomalous activity.

1.2 Variance in Background Noise Levels

The minimum daytime background noise levels were measured as 48 dB(A), while it has been found that during a similarly located survey undertaken by Practical Acoustics, the minimum background noise level was 43 dB(A).

Please note that having worked for Practical Acoustics before Clement Acoustics, I am aware of the procedures and equipment used by both and can confirm that they are comparable, if not the same.

As can be seen by comparing the site plans in the 2011 Practical Acoustics report and the 2017 Clement Acoustics report, the two monitoring positions are identical - being the ground floor rear facing window of the restaurant.

It should be noted that the Practical Acoustics survey was undertaken in March 2011, nearly 6 years earlier than the Clement Acoustics survey in February 2017. Reports done in 2012 and 2013 by Clement Acoustics were based on this same 2011 survey. When a request was made for an assessment in 2017, it was felt that the survey should be redone as a change in noise levels was considered likely.

It is expected that noise levels in a given area will fluctuate over time, due to increased road traffic, changes to train timetables and the introduction of new activities. For this reason, noise surveys are typically seen as being valid for a period of 2 years. We would therefore suggest that a survey taken 6 years ago should have no effect on the determination of an application.

1.3 Effects on the Assessment

Notwithstanding the above comments, it should be noted that our report predicts a noise emission level of 28 dB(A) at the worst affected receivers. This is a full 20dB below the minimum background noise level during the 2017 survey and 15dB below the minimum background noise levels during the 2011 survey.

With typical planning conditions requiring a noise emission level 10dB below background noise levels, it is therefore clear that this would be comfortably achieved whichever survey is used as a baseline.

Summary

In summary, we feel that it is incorrect to compare surveys made 6 years apart and expect the same level. The Practical Acoustics survey is well outside of its 'valid period'.

Even so, the level of noise from the plant unit would comply with onerous local authority criteria even when considering the data from 2011.

We trust that the above information is sufficient to your requirements and remain available should you have any further questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Duncan Martin MIOA

Clement Acoustics Ltd