

## Technical Note

**Project:** SweetTree Home Care Services, Coleridge Gardens  
**Subject:** Response to queries  
**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
**Ref:** 87567/TN01

**To:** Nick Priddle, London Borough of Camden  
**From:** Nigel Chandler  
**cc:** Phil Bones  
(phil.bones@sweettree.co.uk)

Dear Nick,

Further to our conversation and your subsequent email (dated 13 September 2018) I write to clarify the points you raised with regards to our noise assessment 87567/NIA rev 01, dated 17 May 2018.

### Assessment criteria

You have queried the assessment criteria used.

As noted in our report (paragraph 5.4), the London Borough of Camden criteria table categorises the noise levels for plant and machinery, during the daytime, as Red, Amber and Green. The "green" category is where the plant rating level is 10dB or more below background; "red" is a rating level of 5dB or more above background. As noted in the summary table in the report, the rating level of the proposed plant is at background, and therefore in the "amber" category between the two.

We suggest that this it is entirely reasonable for plant noise in this environment to be within the "amber" category, since:

- There are already numerous items of plant in the immediate vicinity, including exhaust flues and condenser units much closer to the nearest residential windows
- The new plant will only operate during the noisiest part of the day (see also note below)
- The background levels used for the assessment are the lowest during the relevant periods (47dBA between 09.00 and 17.00, 45 dBA 08.00-09.00 and 17.00-20.00) and plant noise levels are significantly higher for the majority of the day (60 dBA between approximately 08.00 and 14.30) due to plant at other premises

In addition, it should be noted that the rating noise of the plant would be expected to have, at worst, a "low impact" according to the assessment method in BS 4142:2014. This is likely to be overstating the impact, however, since the context is an area already experiencing plant noise, and at a higher level for the majority of the day.

### Assessment time

You have suggested that the plant operation between 09.00 and 17.00, when all four AC units will operate, should be assessed against the lowest measured background sound level between 08.00 and 20.00.

We would consider this to be inappropriate, in the same way that it would be inappropriate to assess plant which only runs during the daytime against the night-time background sound level.

It should be noted, however, that even using the lowest background sound level between 08.00 and 20.00 to assess all four items of plant, the excess is, at worst, 2 dBA over the lowest background level and is therefore still within the "amber" category.

We trust the above to be in order at this stage; please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Chandler

**For and behalf of Noise Solutions Ltd.**